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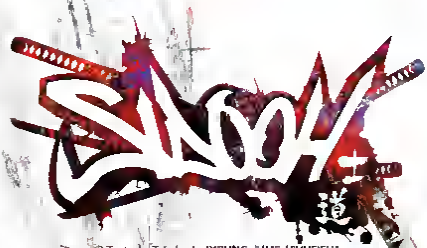

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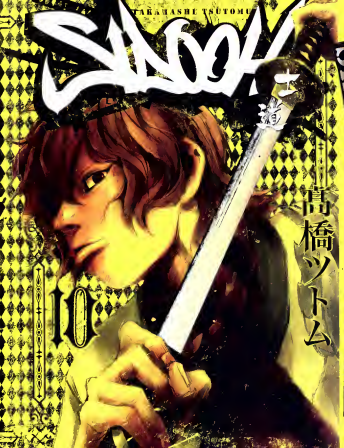
TAKAHASHI TSUTOMU

SIDOOH 士道 10

高橋ツトム



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CUT MY WAY THROUGH THEM

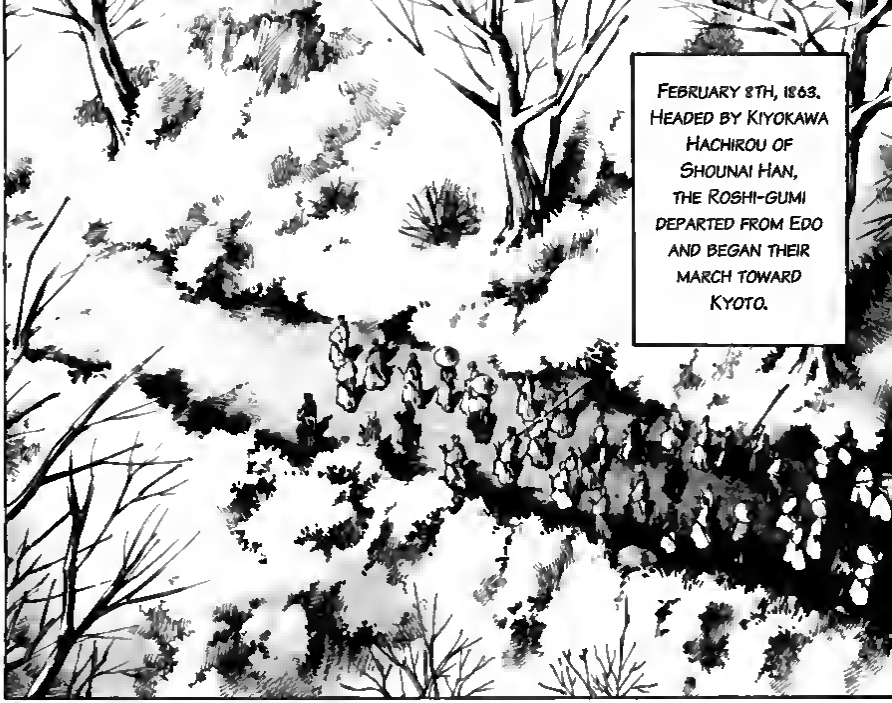
SIDOOH 10

高橋ツトム

第九十五道 中山道 3
第九十六道 浪士組上洛 23
第九十七道 百舌亭 43
第九十八道 壬生浪 63
第九十九道 試し合い 83
第百道 交激 103
第百一道 納刀 123
第百二道 徳川家茂 143
第百三道 照主 163
第百四道 大津炎上 183
第百五道 大津炎上・二 203

★この作品はフィクションです。　実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

CHAPTER 95
NAKASENDOU HIGHWAY


FEBRUARY 8TH, 1863. HEADED BY KIYOKAWA HACHIROU OF SHOUNAI HAN, THE ROSHI-GUMI DEPARTED FROM EDO AND BEGAN THEIR MARCH TOWARD KYOTO.

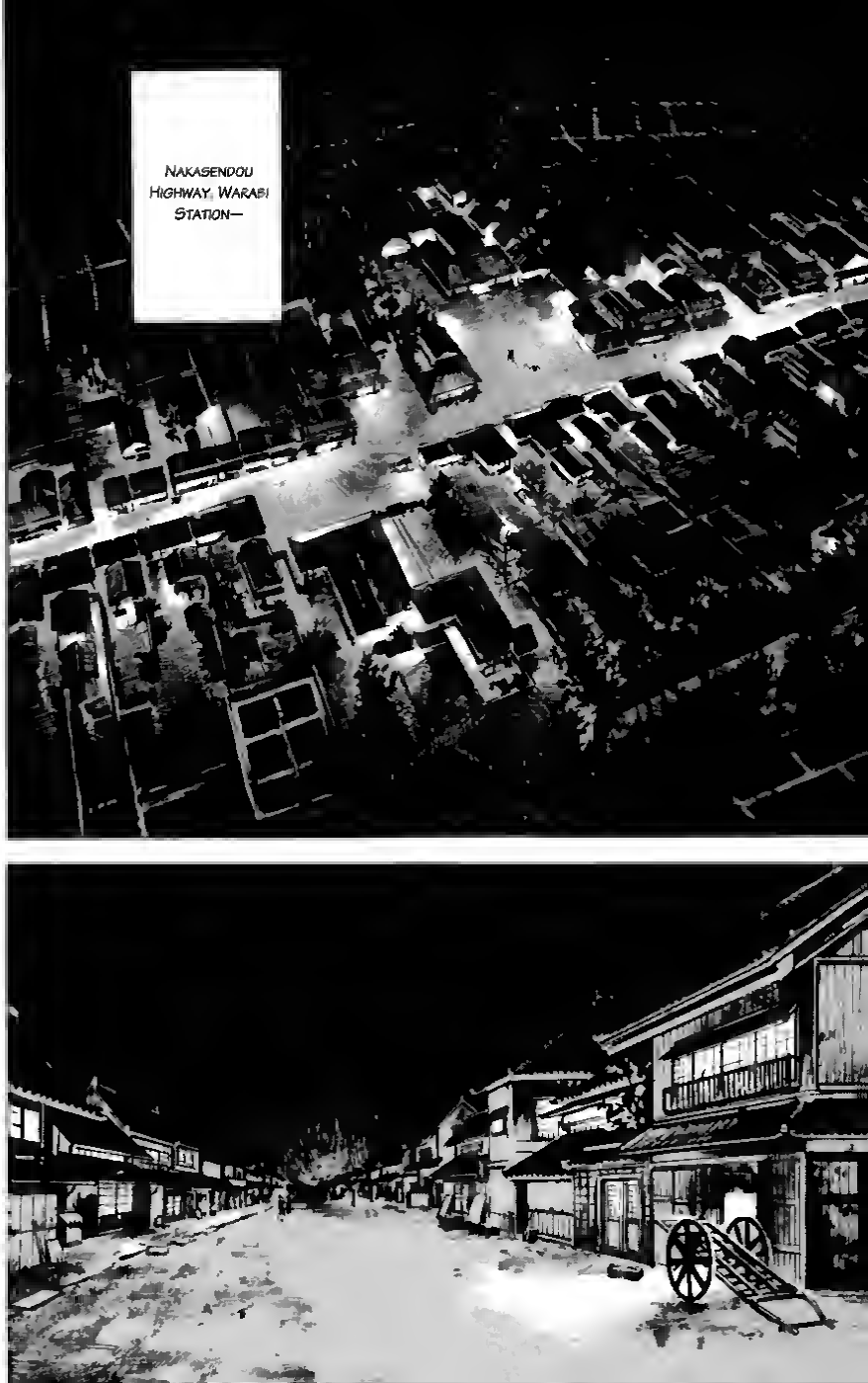
HONESTLY, THOUGH
WE CAN PROBABLY COLLECT OUR MONEY AND TAKE OFF
KAHA-HAHA!

I WONDER WHEN WE'LL GET TO GO HOME.
WHO CARES!
WHO KNOWS?

GOOD THINKING!

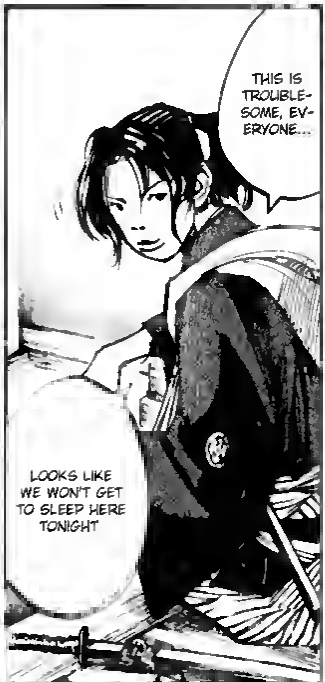
QUITE A FEW OF THEM ARE NOTHING BUT LOWLY SCUM

KIYOKAWA-SAN,
THESE MEN WE HIRED TO FORM THE ROSHI-GUMI


Nakasendou
Highway, Warabi
Station—

MOVE!

LITTLE BOYS ONLY GET ROOMS ONCE THE REAL MEN HAVE SETTLED YOU KNOW...


THIS IS TROUBLE-SOME, EV-ERYONE...
LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T GET TO SLEEP HERE TONIGHT

EH!?
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME...?

I DID.

SOUJI,
IT SEEMS WE'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE AGAIN, DOESN'T IT?

YEAH
LOOKS LIKE IT

HM!?

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

FWOO
HYAH!

YOU!!
KUKU

OOOH!

ガ

STOP!
STOP IT!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
BRAWLING IN PUBLIC!? RIDICULOUS!

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES!!
ARE YOU NOT HONOURABLE MEN SERVING THE GOAL OF SONNOU JOUI!?

NAGAKURA SHINPACHI,
FROM THE SHIEI-KAN.
SPEAK!
I WANT THE NAMES OF ALL OF YOU!
ALSO FROM SHIEI-KAN.
HARADA SANOSUKE.
OKITA SOUJI.
HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU.

PLEASE DON'T WORRY. IT WAS ONLY A QUARREL...
...NAH
YOU KNOW HIM?
HIJIKATA ...?
KIYOKAWA-SENSEI.
WHAT IS IT?

DO YOU...
KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THE ROSHI-GUMI?
WE FIGHT FOR A GREATER GOOD. WE DO NOT USE VIOLENCE FOR PETTY, PERSONAL REASONS.
IF WE DID...

THEN WE WOULD BE NO BETTER THAN ANIMALS.

FEBRUARY 23, 1863. THE ROSHI-GUMI ARRIVED IN KYOTO.
CHAPTER 96
ROSHI-GUMI IN THE CAPITAL

SHINTOKU TEMPLE, MIBU

KIYOKAWA SENSEI HAS SOME WORDS TO SAY TO YOU.
PLEASE LISTEN QUIETLY!

EVERYONE!
YOU HAVE ENDURED HARDSHIPS COMING TO THE CAPITAL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
HOWEVER!
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE ROSHI-GUMI WILL RETURN TO EDO.
HAH?
OUR MISSION IS NO LONGER TO PROTECT SHOGUN IEMOCHI WHEN HE ARRIVES AT THE CAPITAL.
BACK TO EDO...?
INSTEAD, WE SPEARHEAD THE SONNOU JOUI MOVEMENT FOR THE GLORY OF OUR EMPEROR!

THEREFORE, WE WILL RETURN TO EDO, WHERE TROUBLE BREWS AND FOREIGNERS AGGREGATE!
WE WILL FIGHT FOR SONNOU JOUI!
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
IS THAT ALL RIGHT. HE ASKS.
ALTHOUGH IT'D BE NICE TO RETURN HOME EARLIER
I'M MORE CURIOUS TO KNOW IF HE CAN PAY FOR ALL OF THIS

HOLD ON A SECOND.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.

WHY ARE WE HEADING BACK AS SOON AS WE'VE ARRIVED?
YOU HAVE ALL SIGNED YOUR CONTRACTS.
THAT BINDS YOU TO MY ORDERS.
HEH.
RETURNING TO BORING EDO ON SOMEONE'S WHIM? COUNT ME OUT.

YOU WANTED US TO COME TO THE CAPITAL, KILL THE REBELLING RONIN, AND PROTECT THE SHOGUN. WAS THAT NOT WHAT YOU TOLD US?

ARE YOU
PLAYING US?

THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND HOW HONOURABLE IT IS TO SERVE OUR EMPEROR, SON OF THE HEAVENS?

IT'S YOU AGAIN!
STAND DOWN, RUNT!
AND WHAT IF I DON'T?

YOU WANT A PIECE OF THIS?
KIYOKAWA-SENSEI,
I CANNOT ACCEPT BEING ORDERED BACK TO EDO EITHER.
YOU ...

MY NAME IS SERIZAWA.

THOSE WHO WANT TO LEAVE CAN LEAVE!
I WILL STAY. I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN KYOTO PROPERLY YET!

SUIT YOUR-SELVES!
FROM TODAY ONWARDS, YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN MASTER-LESS FLOATERS!
LET'S GO.

WE HAD NOTHING GOING FOR US TO BEGIN WITH.
THINGS ARE JUST BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE, THAT'S ALL.

I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM EDO AND COULD NOT DO ANYTHING. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?

HIJIKATA-SAN...
YOU REALLY HATE KIYOKAWA-SENSEI, DON'T YOU?

KUKU...

YOU NEVER HAVE ANY PATIENCE FOR LEARNED MEN~~~

HEH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
KNOCK YOURSELVES OUT!

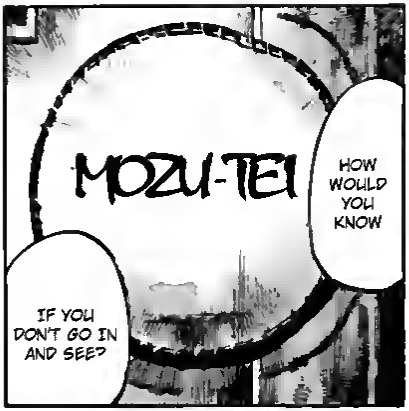
KONDO-SAN,
SINCE WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO ANYWAY, WHY DON'T WE GO HAVE SOME FUN IN KYOTO?

OH, YEAH!

IT'S WEIRD, ISN'T IT?
BUT THE STARS WE SEE ARE SO DIFFERENT
EDO AND THE CAPITAL SHOULD BOTH BE UNDER THE SAME SKY...
EVERYTHING WILL HAPPEN.
WILL HAPPEN TO US...?
WHAT.

BECAUSE WE'RE ONLY GETTING STARTED.

I'M HUNGRY.
LET'S FIND A PLACE TO EAT.
YEAH.
BUSY.
THE CAPITAL LOOKS AMAZING!


MOZU-TEI
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW
IF YOU DON'T GO IN AND SEE?

HOW ABOUT HERE?
WOULDN'T IT BE EXPEN-SIVE?

WELCOME TO OUR RESTAU-RANT!

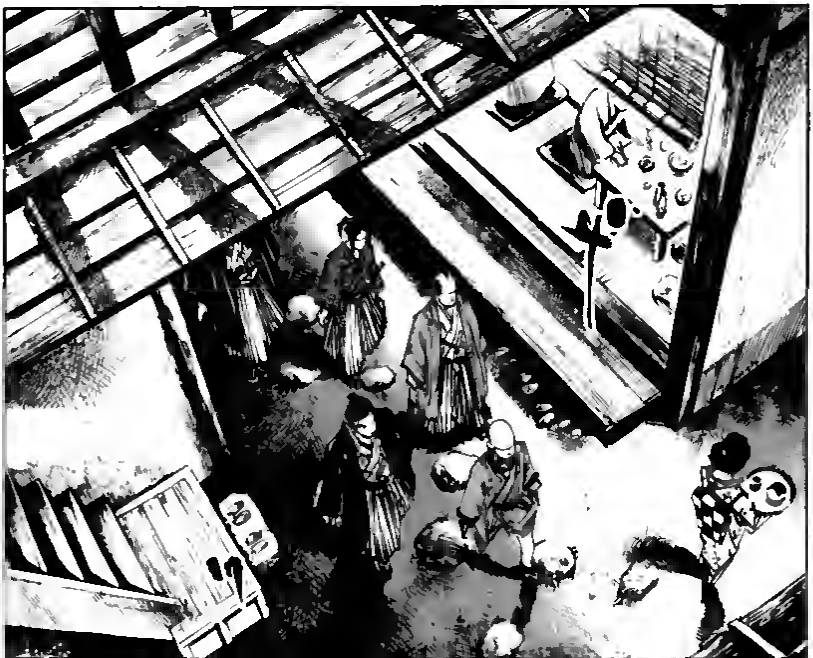
WELCOME!
HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY?
CHAPTER 97
MOZU-TEI

SEVEN.

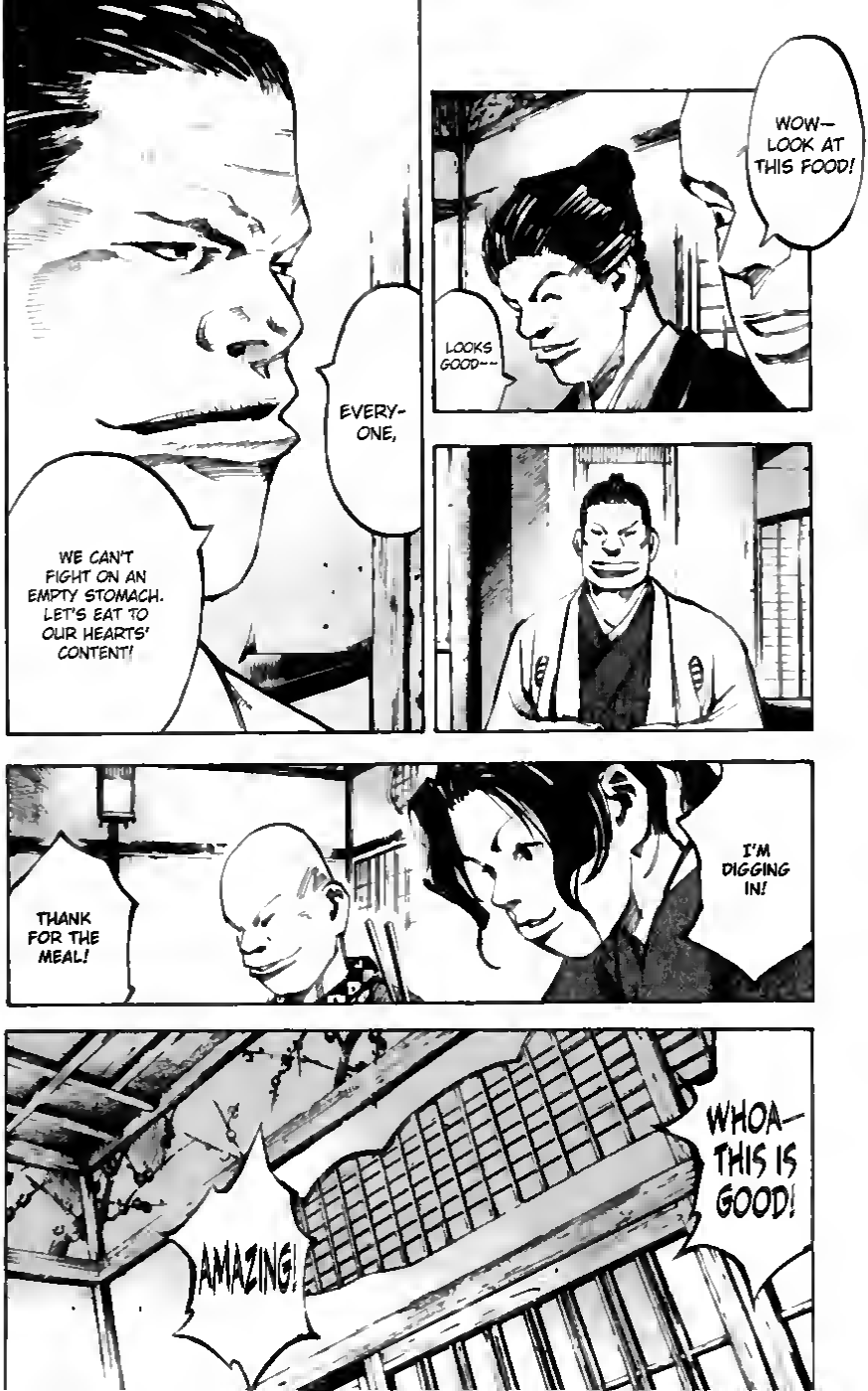
SURE.
THAT WOULD BE GOOD.

WOULD YOU LIKE A PRIVATE ROOM?

PLEASE FOLLOW ME.



HIJIKATA-SAN,
WOMEN FROM KYOTO SURE ARE DIFFERENT, AREN'T THEY?
SHE IS DAMN PRETTY!
BLABBIC


WOW— LOOK AT THIS FOOD!
LOOKS GOOD—
EVERY-ONE,
WE CAN'T FIGHT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH. LET'S EAT TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT!
I'M DIGGING IN!
THANK FOR THE MEAL!
WHOA— THIS IS GOOD!
AMAZING!

SLIDE
IS THE FOOD TO YOUR LIKING?
HOW IS EVERY-THING?
THIS IS THE BEST CHICKEN HOTPOT I'VE TASTED!

THE SOUP IN THAT HOTPOT IS BOILED FOR 3 DAYS STRAIGHT. DURING THAT TIME, YOU HAVE TO TEND TO THE FIRE DAY AND NIGHT.
THE MEAT COMES FROM A HEN EXACTLY 3 DAYS BEFORE SHE FIRST LAYS EGGS. THE TASTE IS VERY UNIQUE.
HUH—
WOW—
YES?
BY THE WAY, MISS ...

LOOKS LIKE OUR FRIEND HERE REALLY LIKES YOU.

THANK YOU.

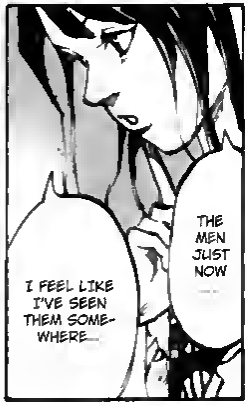
HAH?

AAH...
I'M FLAT-TERED.

SOUJI, YOU IDIOT!!
IT'S THE TRUTH, THOUGH!!

BAHA-HAHA!

HMM...


I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THEM SOME-WHERE...
THE MEN JUST NOW...

WHAT'S WRONG, MOZU?

MOZU-
NEE-SAN—

IT'S THE
PRIVATE
ROOM...
THERE'S
A LITTLE
PROBLEM
...

MOZU-TEI

THAT'S TROUBLE-SOME...

2 RYO IS HARDLY ENOUGH ...

CERTAINLY WHAT HAN DO YOU BELONG TO, MASTER SAMURAI?
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT IT ON OUR TAB?
I WILL NEED TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AT THE VERY LEAST.

WOMAN!
AH...
ABOUT THAT...

A MAN HAS BOWED HIS HEAD IN FRONT OF YOU
DO WHAT HE SAYS. NOW!
MY, MY—
WHAT AN ATTITUDE.
AH! YOU ARE ALL FROM THE SHIEI-KAN OF ICHIGAYA YANAGI-CHO, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THAT IS CORRECT.
WE ARE FROM THE SHIEI-KAN
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, BUT WE'VE MET EACH OTHER BEFORE AT THE SWORDFIGHT TOURNAMENT.

MY NAME IS SAMEJIMA TASUKE...
FROM AIZU'S KYOTO MIMAWARI-GUMI, SUBDIVISION "BYAKUREN-TAI"
AND YOU ARE?
OHH!
A FRIEND FROM AIZU!
WE WERE PLANNING ON WRITING TO MATSUDAIRA KATAMORI TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION, AND TO ASK FOR PERMISSION TO PATROL THE CAPITAL.
WE WISH FOR NOTHING BUT THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE SHOGUN WHILE HE IS HERE.
WE HAD COME TO THE CAPITAL ALL THE WAY FROM EDO TO PROTECT THE SHOGUN HERE.
DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE ROSHI-GUMI AND BECOME MASTER-LESS SAMURAI AGAIN.

SAMEJIMA-DONO!
MAY WE IMPOSE ON YOUR KINDNESS AND ASK YOU TO PASS ALONG OUR MESSAGE?
WHAT A STRONG PRESENCE...
...HG...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
IN THAT CASE,
I WILL TRY MY BEST.
THANK YOU!

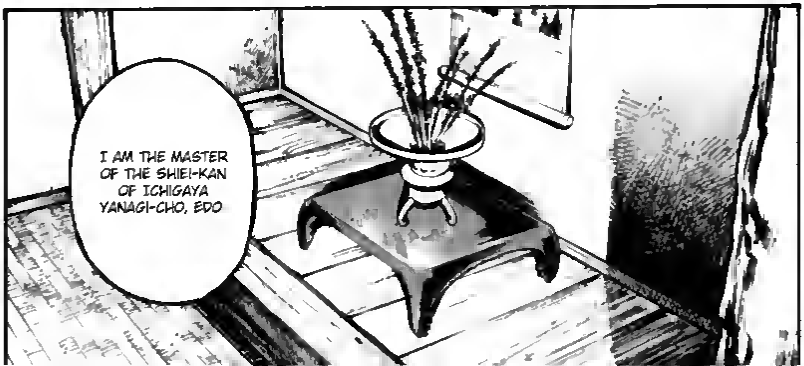
OKAY—
WHAT ABOUT
THE MEAL?
THANK
YOU,
TRULY!

HOUSE OF YAGI—
AIZU HUH...
FROM THE WAY THINGS LOOK... THEY SHOULD WANT US ON THEIR SIDE.

OUR AIM IS TO SERVE THE SHOGUN THIS IS THE ONLY WAY AND THEREFORE THE BEST WAY
MM.
FINE.

THAT SHOULD BE IT.
HOUSE OF YAGI ...
HERE?

CHAPTER 98
RONIN OF MIBU



MY NAME IS KONDOU ISAMI.

HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU
ALSO FROM THE SHIEI-KAN.

I AM AN OFFICIAL FROM THE KYOTO SHUGO-SHOKU OFFICE. MY NAME IS KIMURA JIROUBEE OF AIZU

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS YESTERDAY
I'M SAMEJIMA

I AM THE LEADER OF SUBDIVISION "BYAKUREN-TAI" OF AIZU'S KYOTO MIMAWARI-GUMI, YUKIMURA SHOTAROU

I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU!

DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE SEPARATED OURSELVES FROM THE ROSHI-GUMI. WE NOW LIVE IN THE CAPITAL AS MASTERLESS SAMURAI.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHOGUN IEMOCHI WILL ONLY BE IN THE CAPITAL FOR A SHORT TIME. NONETHELESS, WE WILL BE HONOURED IF WE MAY SERVE THE SHOGUN WHILE HE IS HERE.

T/N *General of Aizu: referring to Aizu's Daimyou, Matsudaira Katamori

SIR.
AIZU HAS...
ALSO BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR MOVEMENTS
BUT THAT MADE US CONFIDENT IN YOUR LOYALTY TO THE BUKUFU
WE WERE VERY SURPRISED BY YOUR DECISION TO DEMIT THE ROSHI-GUMI...
WE, TOO, WISH TO ALLY WITH LIKE-MINDED COMRADES, WHO MAY FIGHT ALONGSIDE US.
THERE IS MUCH UNCERTAINTY IN THE CAPITAL RIGHT NOW.
HOWEVER...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MAY WE JOIN FORCES TO RIGHT THE WRONGS IN THE CAPITAL!

YOU WILL FIRST NEED TO HAVE YOUR ABILITIES TESTED.
HPH

WELL,
COULD YOU COME TO OUR HEADQUARTERS AT KURODANI TOMORROW?
WE WILL BE HONOURED TO BE TESTED BY AIZU.
OF COURSE
WHERE SHOULD THE EXAMINATION TAKE PLACE?
CERTAINLY.

UNTIL TO-
MORROW.

WHAT?
NOTHING.

SHO...
DID YOU KNOW THAT HIJIKATA FROM BEFORE?
NOT AT ALL.
.....
... RUDE?
HE'S JUST A RUDE GUY.
THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF CHARACTERS IN JAPAN, HUH...

SO TOMORROW WE WILL BE HEADING TO THE KOUMYOU TEMPLE
THIS TEST
WILL LIKELY DETERMINE OUR FUTURE
PLEASE WORK HARD

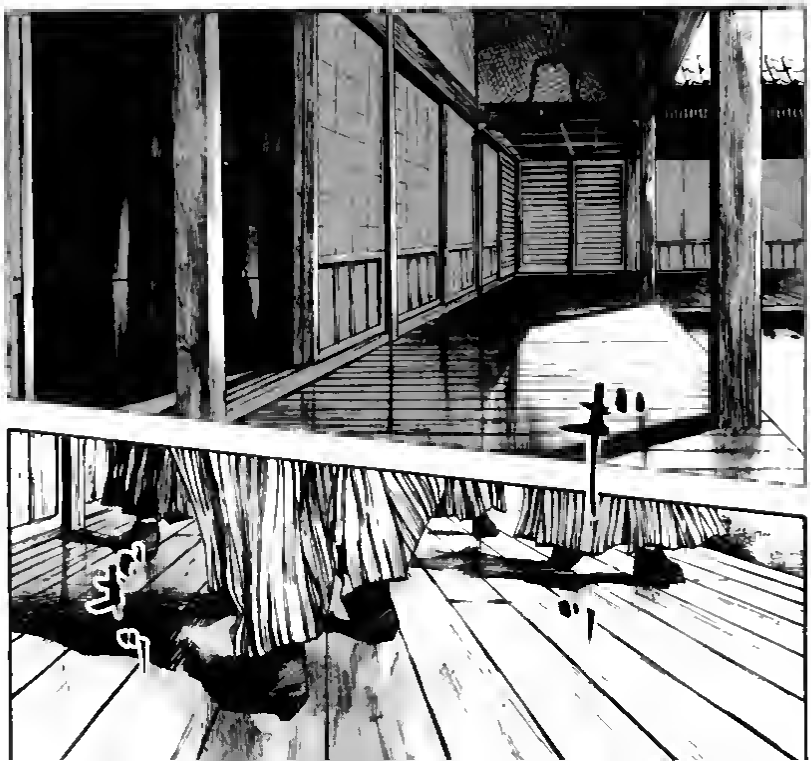
NOT TO WORRY! HIJIKATA-SAN WILL BEAT EVERY-ONE THERE TO THE GROUND

MIND COUNTING ME IN, TOO?

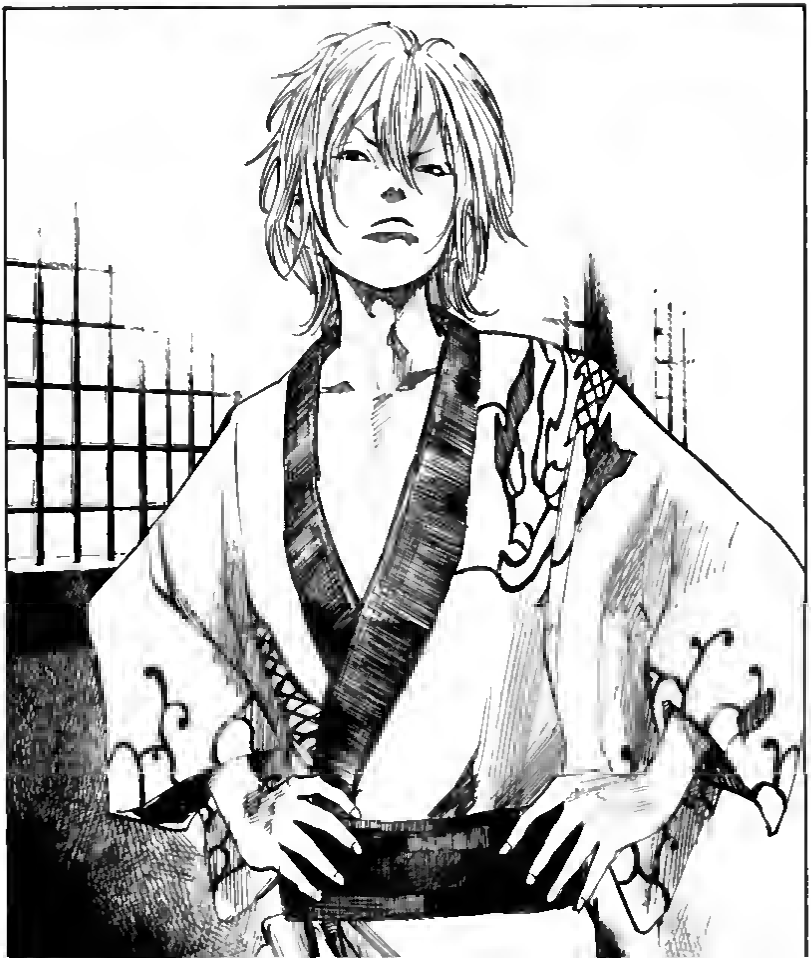
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO COME!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
OOH!
SAITOU!!
YOU LOOK WELL.
YOU TOO, HIJIKATA-SAN.
CAN'T WAIT TO PICK UP MY SWORD AGAIN AND GET TO WORK
NOT TO WORRY
RIGHT NOW, AT THE CAPITAL...

THE MORE PEOPLE YOU KILL, THE MORE MONEY YOU'LL GET.

KOUMYOU TEMPLE, KURODANI, KYOTO—



THAT LOOKS LIKE THE CHILD WHO MADE A RUCKUS AT THE SWORD-FIGHT TOURNAMENT...



YES.

THE EXAMINATION IS SET TO BEGIN
ARE YOU ALL READY?

THEN, WE HAVE THE FIRST WARRIOR OF AIZU'S TEAM—

YUKIMURA SHOTAROU.

ROSHI-GUMI
WHO WILL BE YOUR FIRST FIGHTER?
SIR.
SIR.
IT WILL BE
OKITA SOUJI
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING RASH
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CROSS SWORDS WITH SOMEONE ELSE
OH?
WHO MIGHT THAT BE?

HIJIKATA-SAN, IF I COULD.

WE CAN'T DISPATCH HIJIKATA-SAN RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING.

I'VE ALREADY BEEN NAMED YOUR OPPONENT.

SO YOUR OPPONENT IS ME, SOUJI OKITA.
CHAPTER 99 TEST

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO CROSS SWORDS WITH YOU HIJIKATA-SAN

NII-CHAN,
YOU REALLY WANT TO FIGHT THAT GUY?
A LITTLE, YES.
NAH.
I'M GOING.
ROSHI-GUMI,
WHAT DO YOU SAY...?

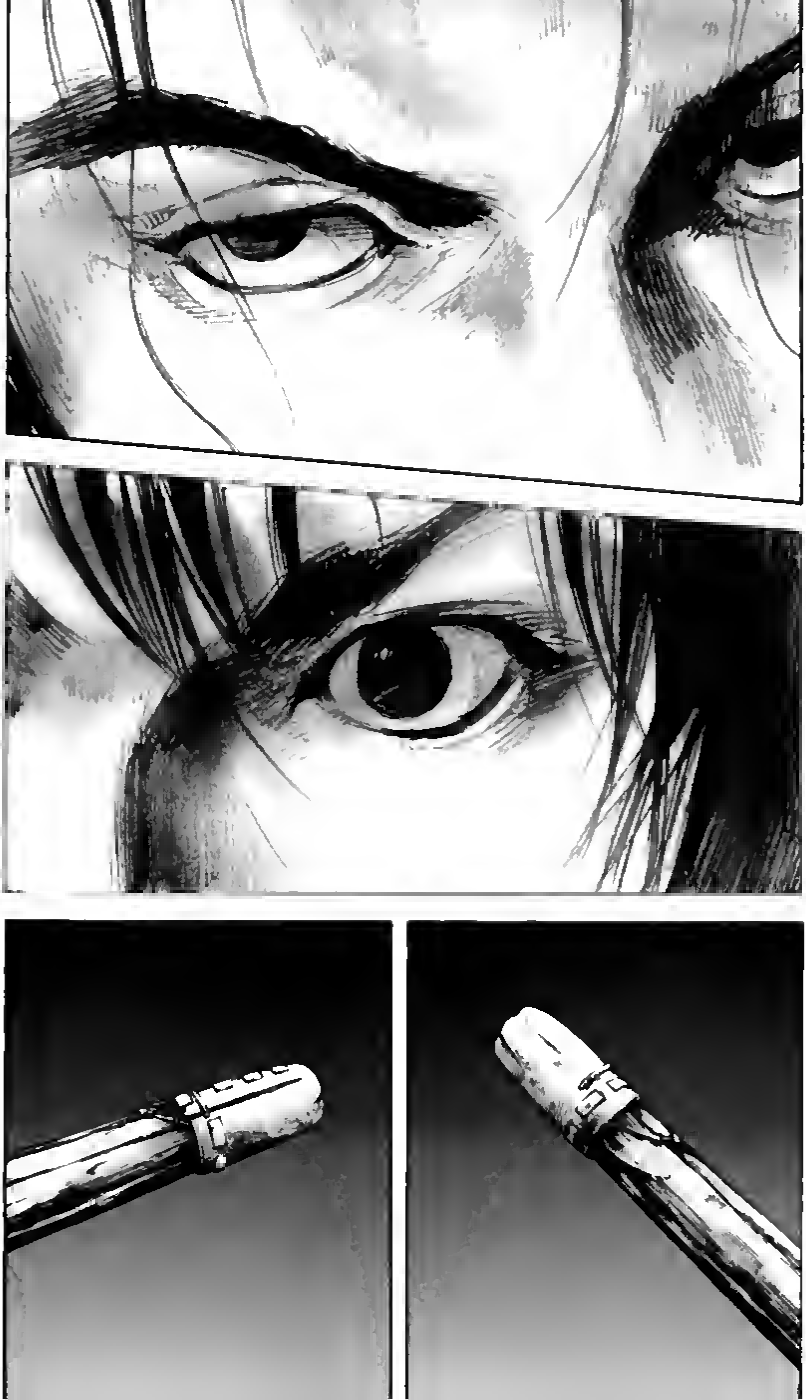
STAND DOWN SOUJI.

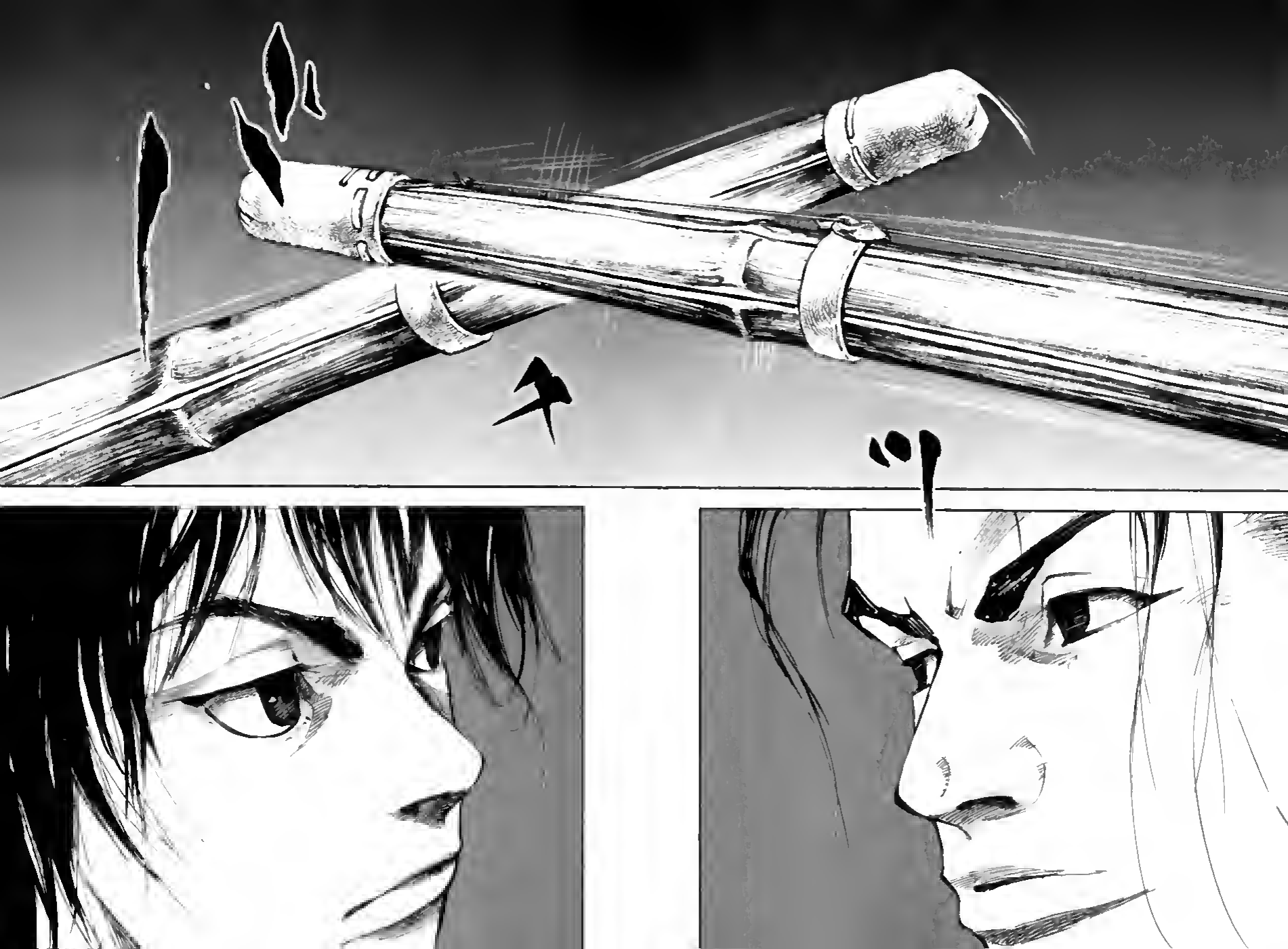
HE PISSES ME OFF...
I'M GONNA WIPE THE FLOOR WITH HIM

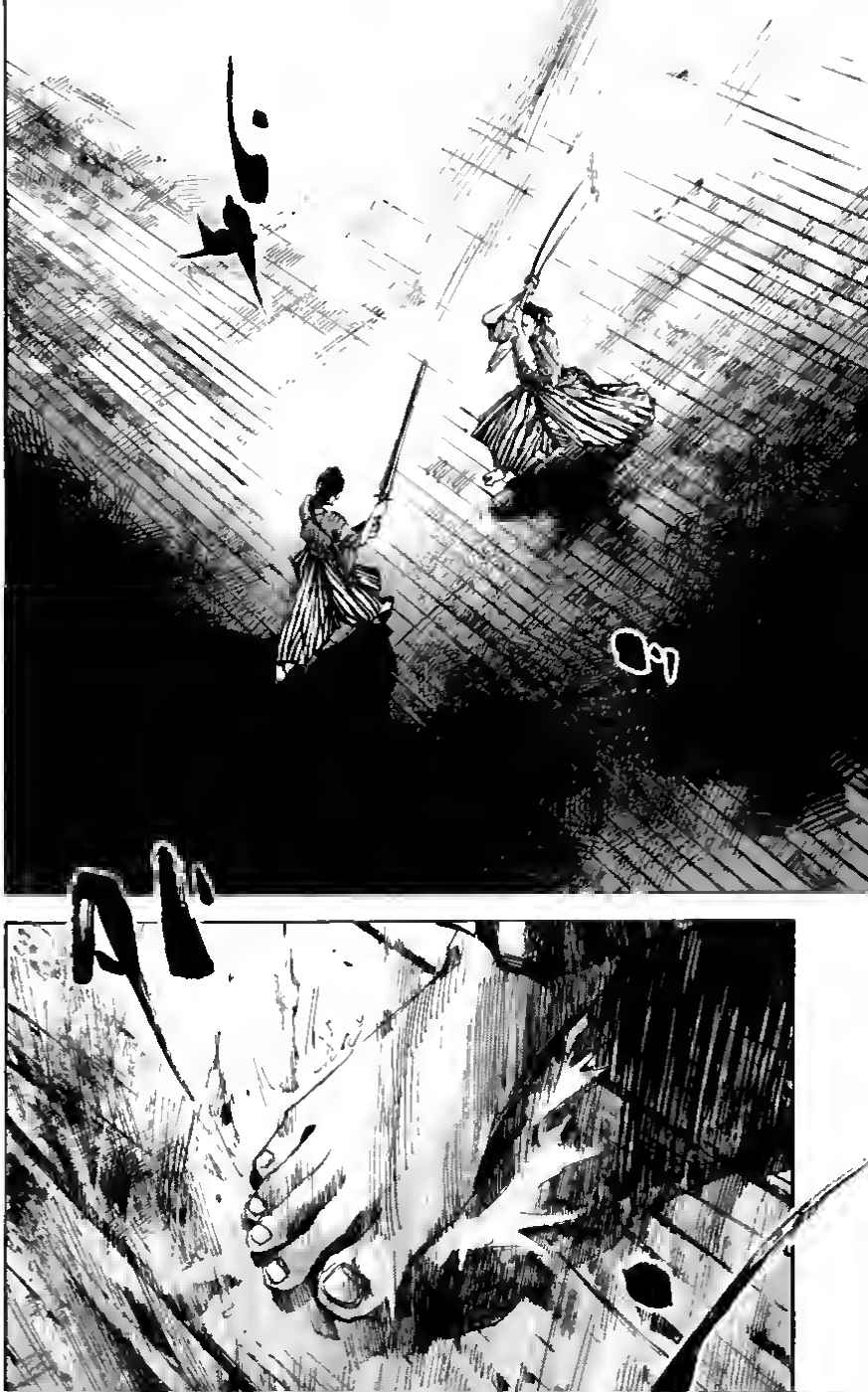
OF COURSE NOT.

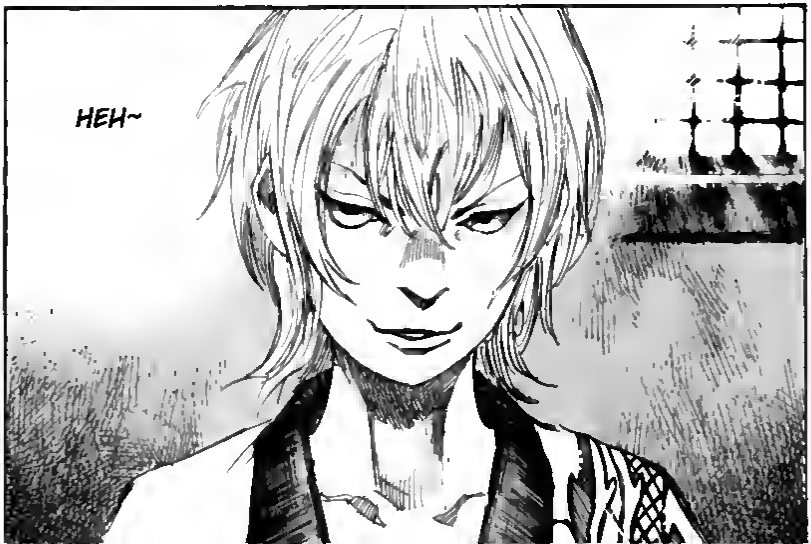
YOU DON'T NEED PROTECTIVE GEAR, DO YOU?

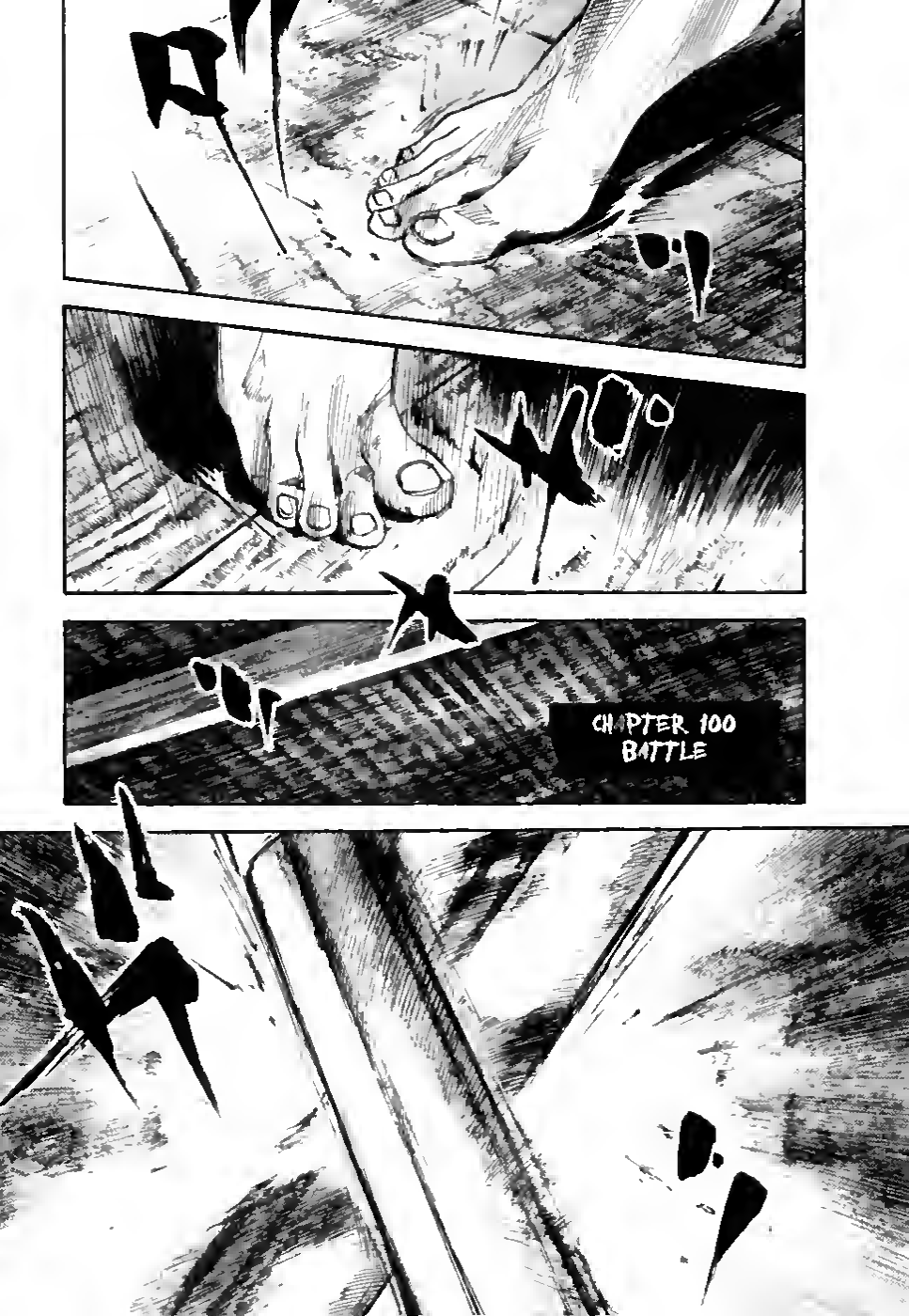
BEGIN!

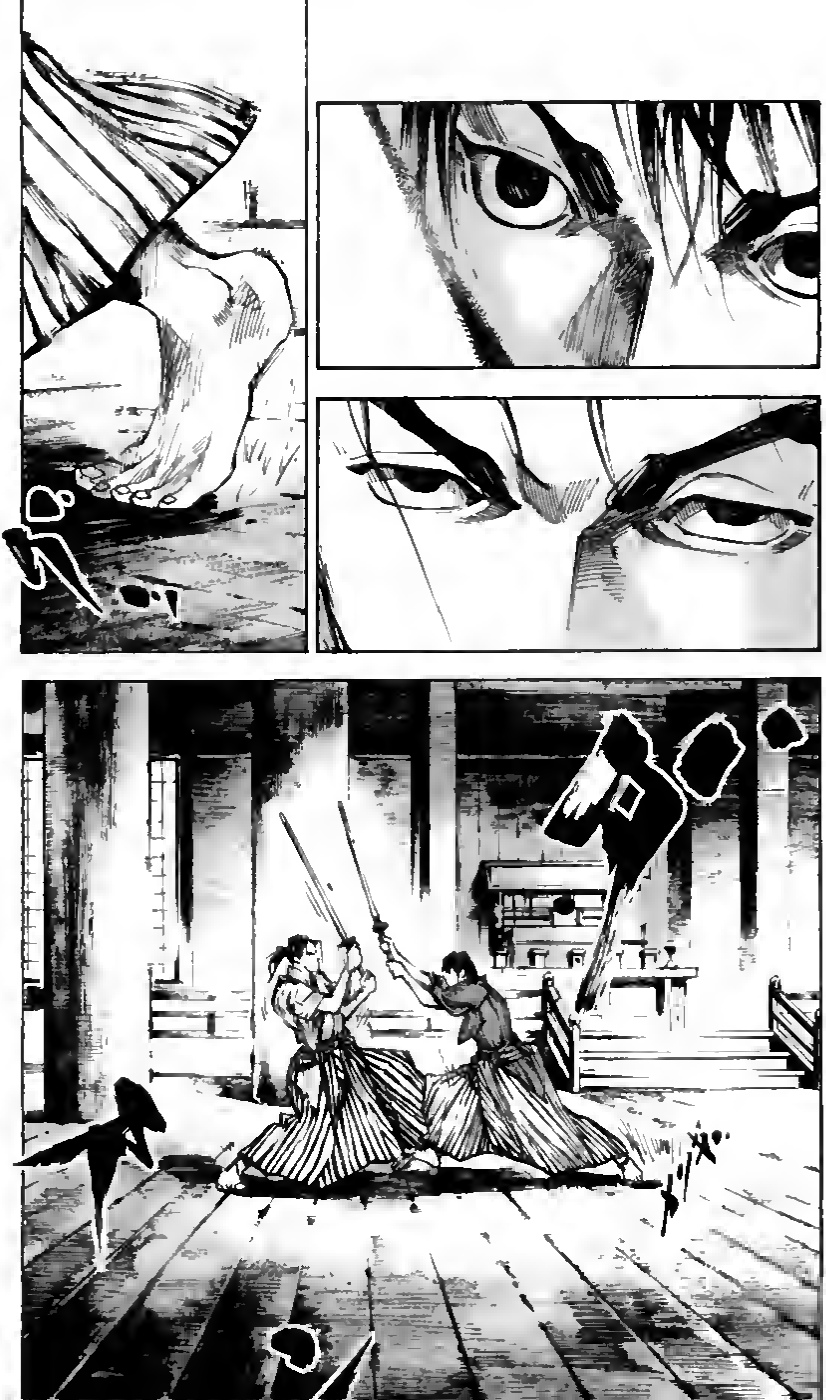


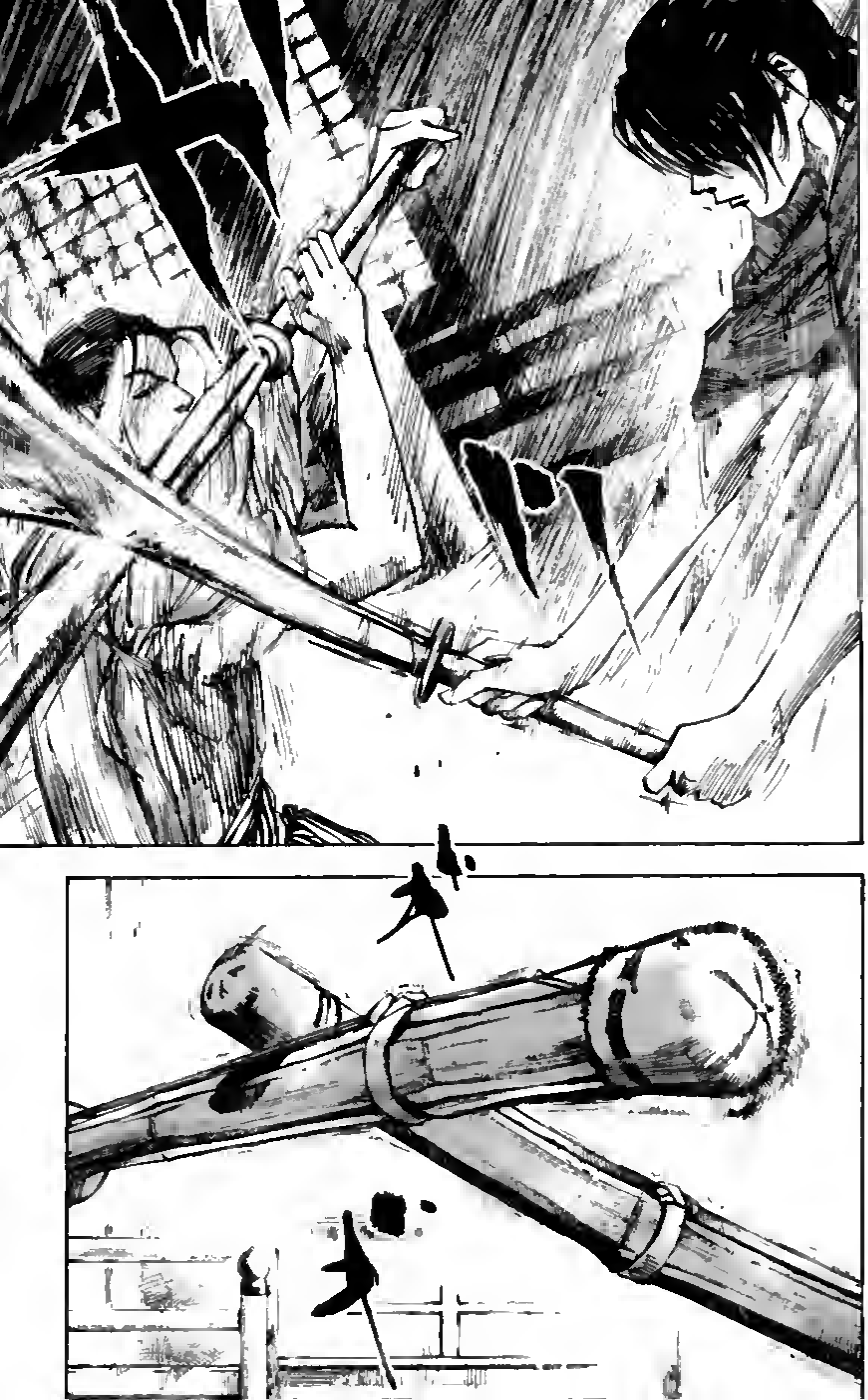


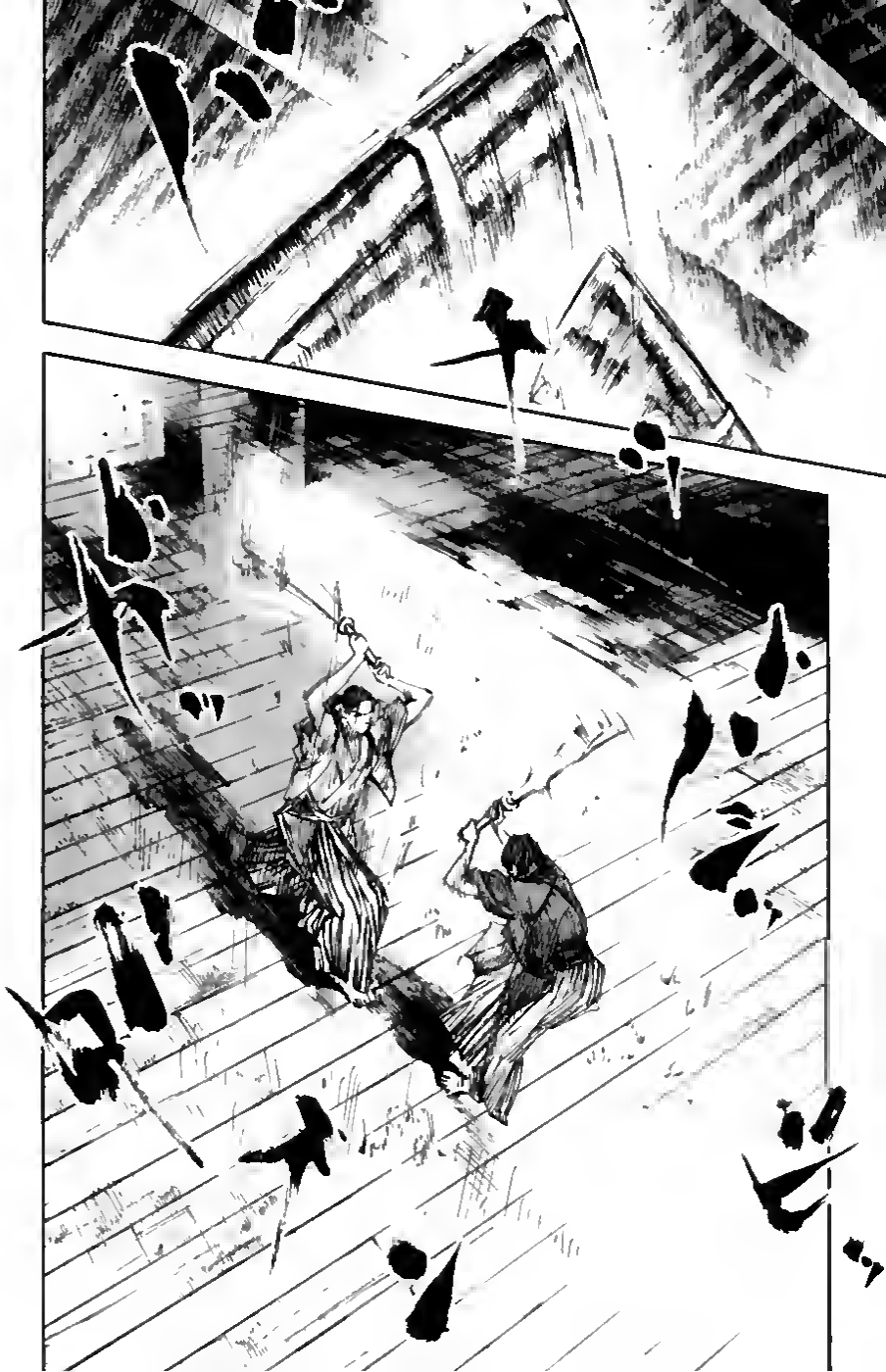



HEH~


CHAPTER 100
BATTLE





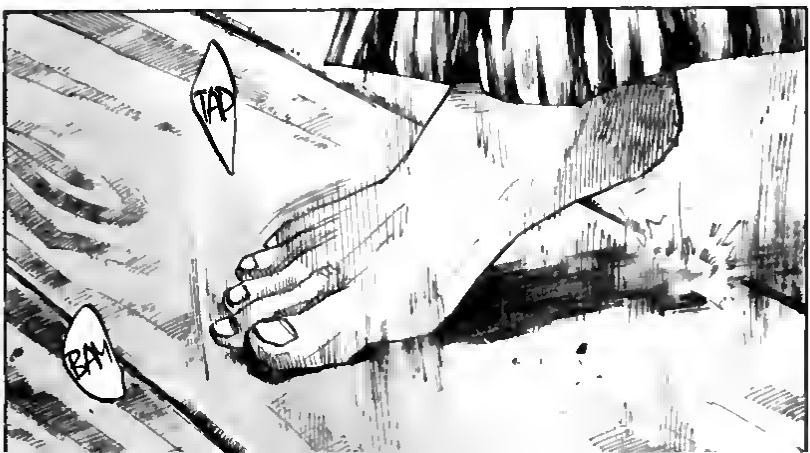


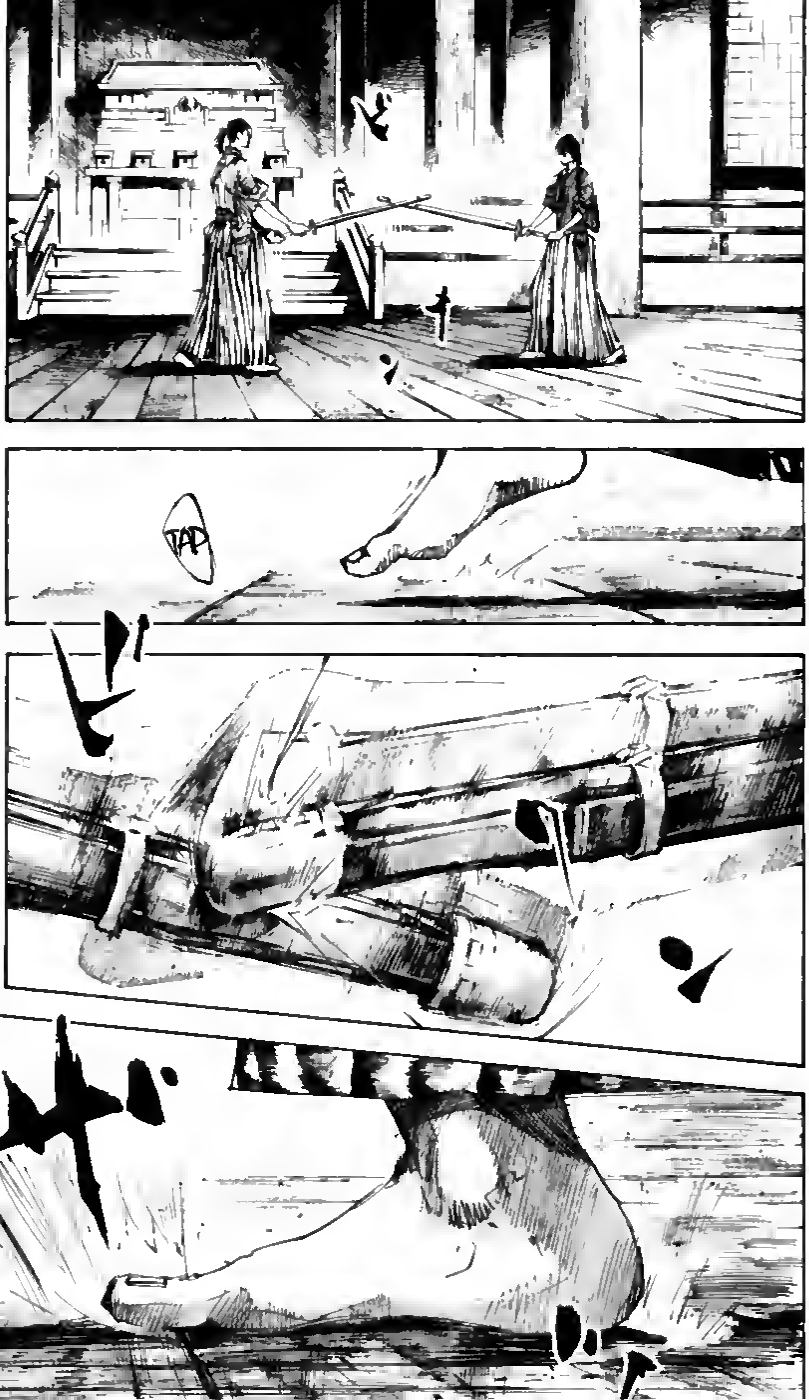
...
SHO...

WELL?
IS THAT IT?

OF COURSE NOT.
A SLIP OF THE FOOT, THAT WAS ALL.

HERE I COME.


TAP
BAM


TAP

DAMN... HE GOT AWAY.

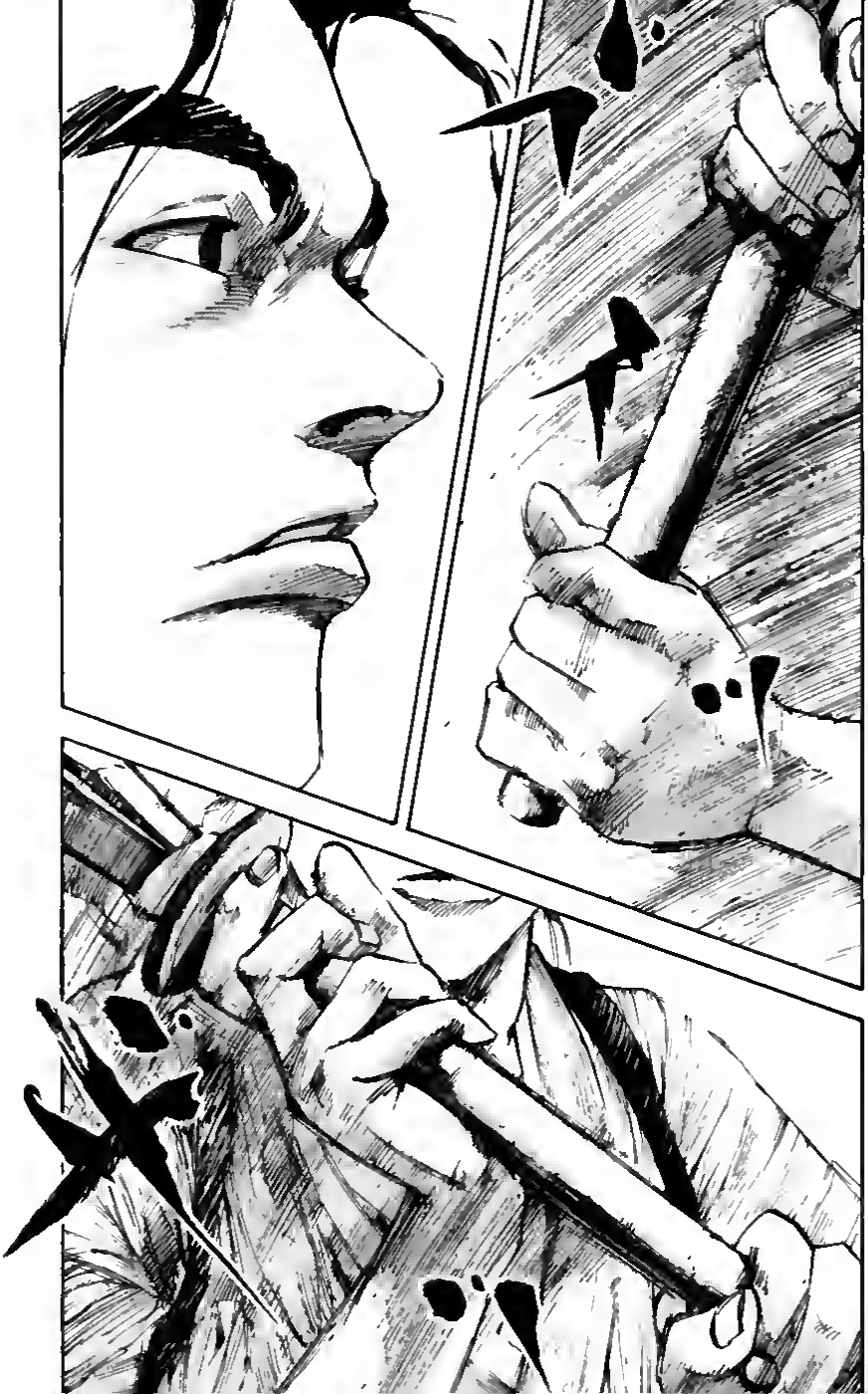
SLIP

YOU BASTARD ...

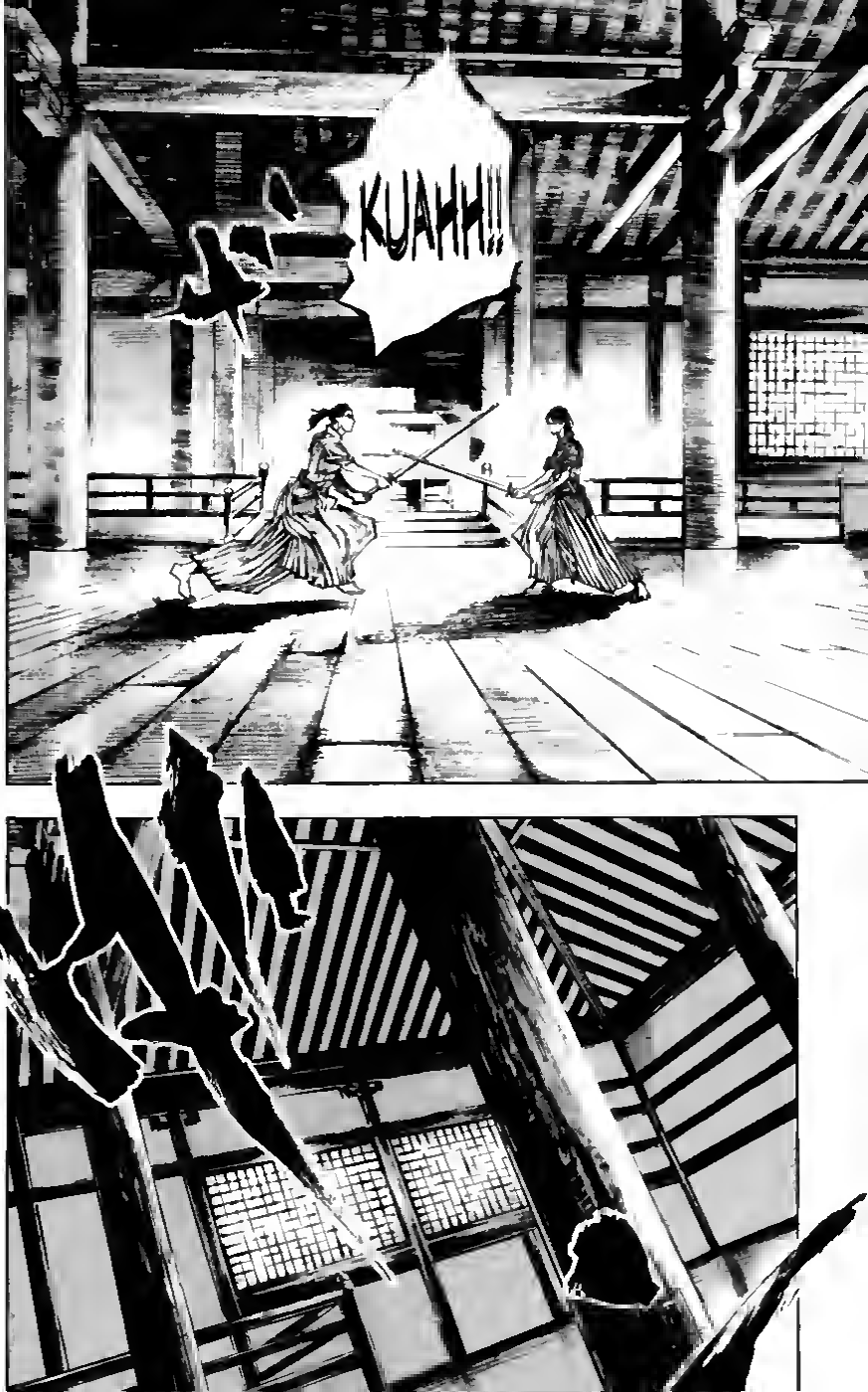
HAHH!!!

GOOD ONE!

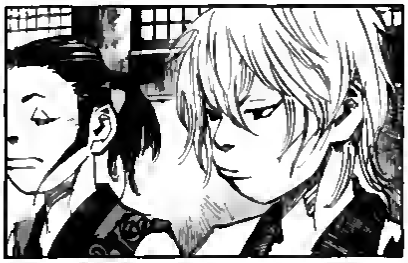
CHAPTER 101 END GAME

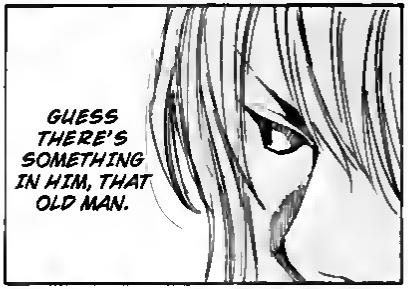


IF THAT WAS A REAL SWORD, HE'D BE DEAD BY NOW.
HAHA...
... YOU
LITTLE!


KUAHH!!!

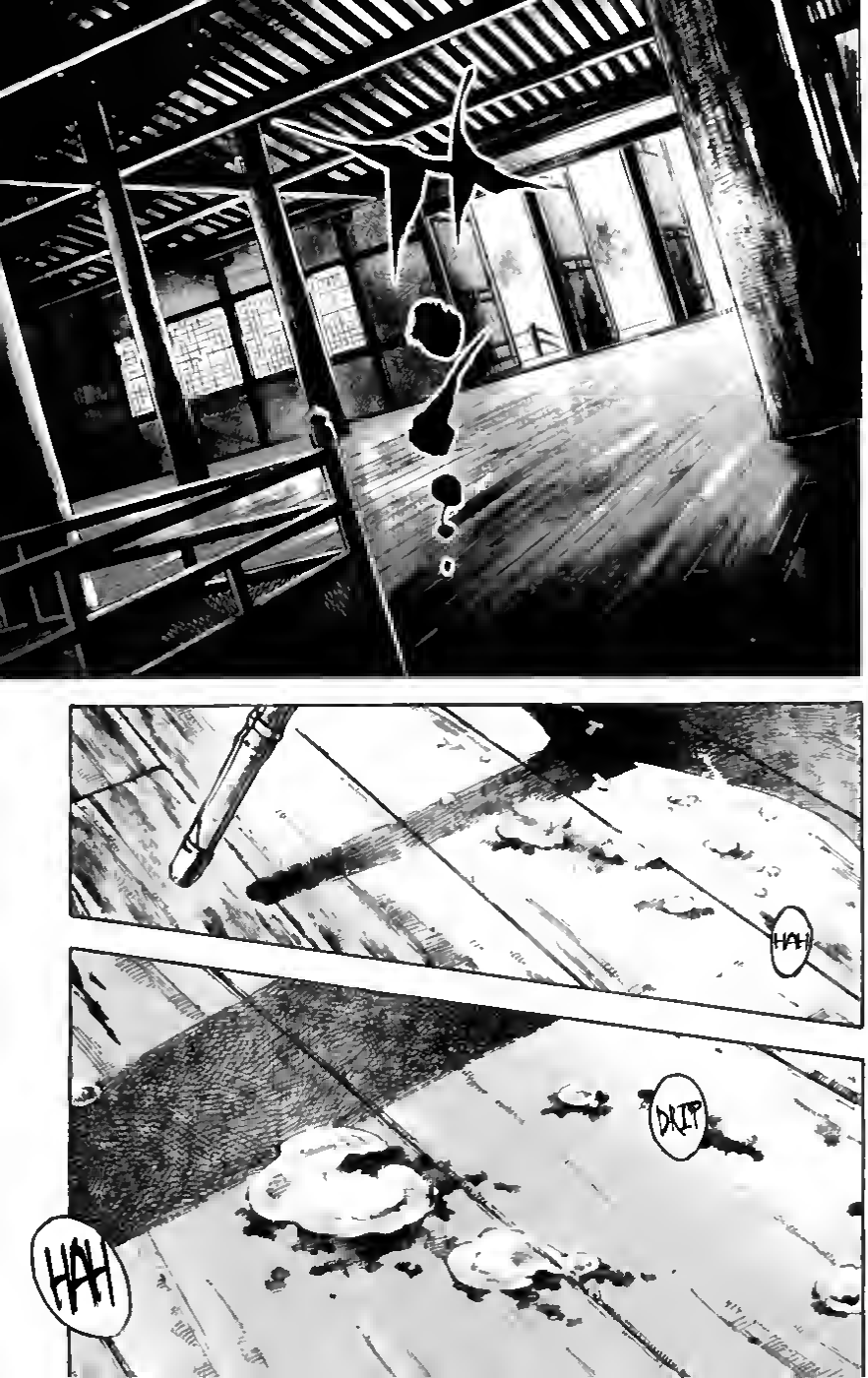
OH...




GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIM, THAT OLD MAN.

FINE.
I'M NOT DONE YET.
NEITHER AM I.
HAH
HAH

AMAZING...
HYAHA-HAHA!

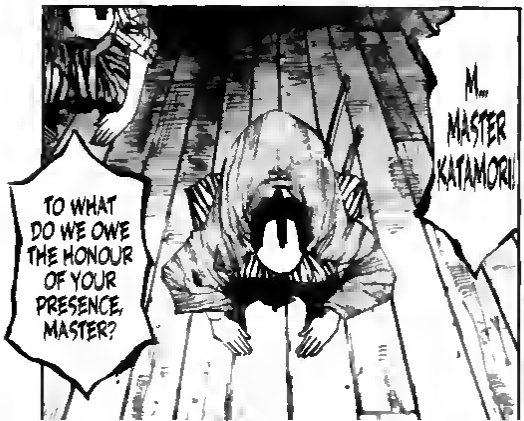

HAH
DRIP
HAH

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
DAMN YOU...
WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

NO.
WE'RE NOT DONE!
.....
STOP...

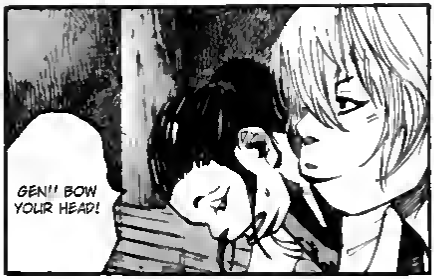
HAH
HAH
HAH

UWAH!
...?...

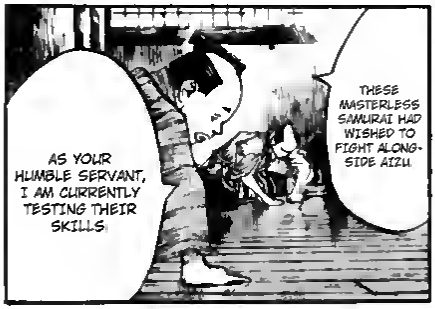

M... MASTER KATAMORI!
TO WHAT DO WE OWE THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE, MASTER?

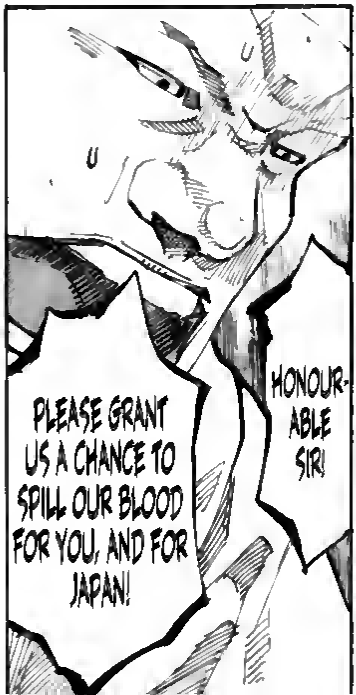
STOP!
STOP RIGHT NOW!

HEE~~
AIZU'S... DAIMYOU MATSUDAIRA KATAMORI...
HHHAAAAAA!


GEN!! BOW YOUR HEAD!

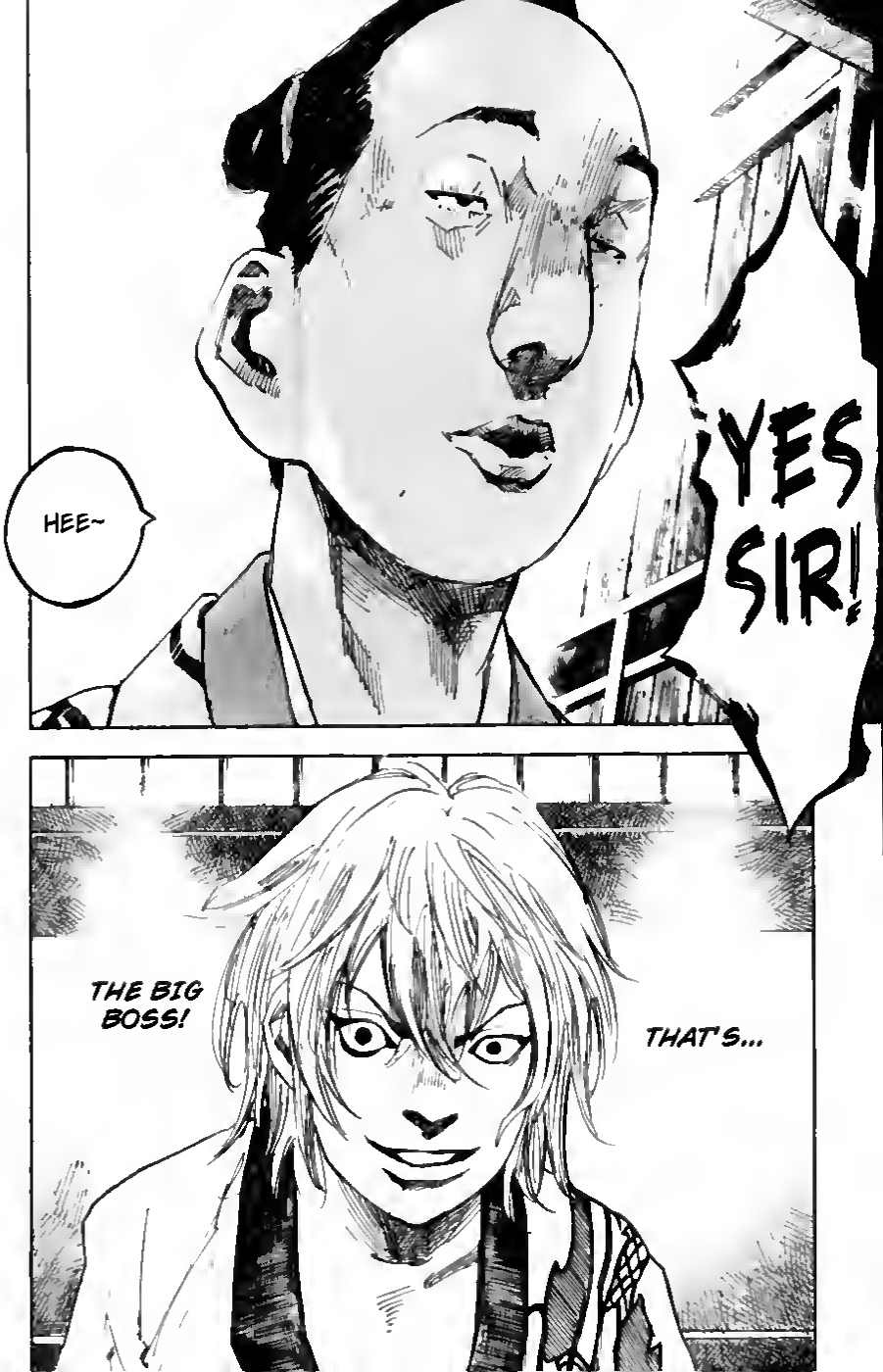
I WAS OUT ON A WALK, SINCE THE WEATHER IS SO NICE I HEARD THE SOUND OF A SWORDFIGHT ON THE WAY AND DECIDED TO DROP BY AND TAKE A LOOK


AS YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT, I AM CURRENTLY TESTING THEIR SKILLS.
THESE MASTERLESS SAMURAI HAD WISHED TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE AIZU.


PLEASE GRANT US A CHANCE TO SPILL OUR BLOOD FOR YOU, AND FOR JAPAN!
HONOURABLE SIR!

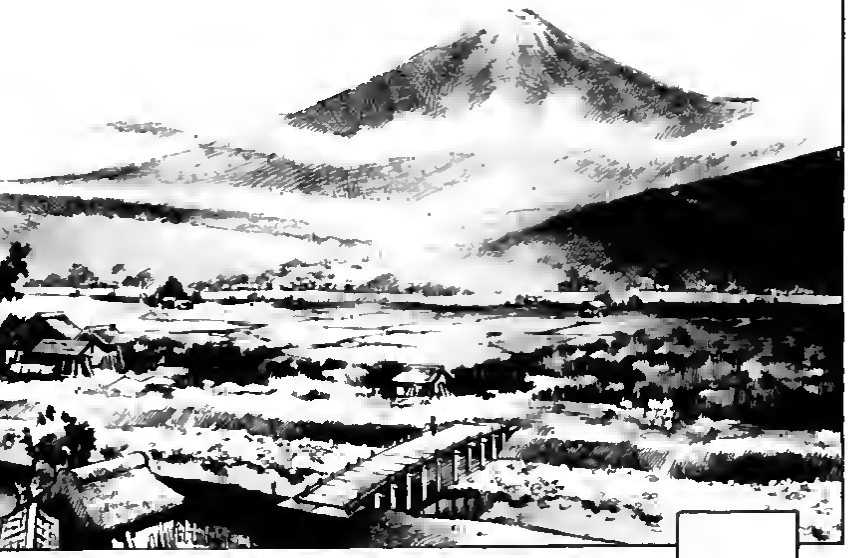
HM

LET US ALL DO OUR VERY BEST... FOR AIZU, FOR THE CAPITAL, AND FOR THE BAKUFU.


HEE~
YES SIR!
THE BIG BOSS!
THAT'S...

CHAPTER 102
TOKUGAWA IEMOCHI

MARCH, 1863—

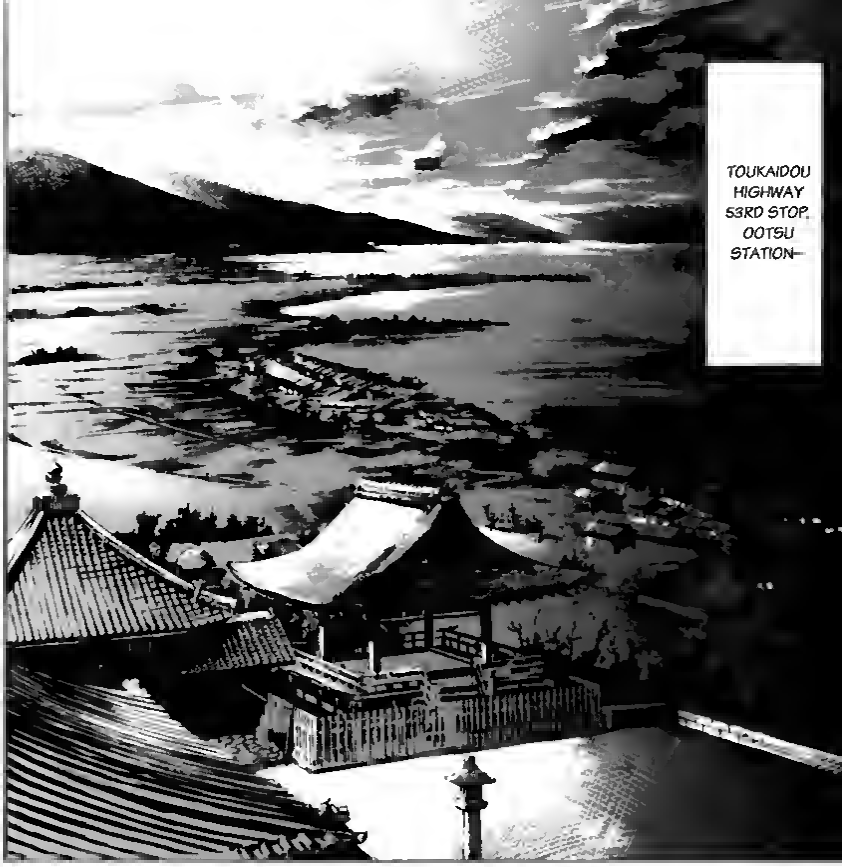


TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING DISCORD IN THE IMPERIAL COURT SINCE THE ANSEI PURGE, AND TO ANSWER THE EMPEROR'S CALL TO REPEL THE FOREIGNERS, THE 14TH TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, SHOGUN IEMOCHI, MARCHED AIZU'S MEN TO THE CAPITAL. IT HAD BEEN 229 YEARS SINCE THE LAST MARCH, LEAD BY THE 3RD SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEMITSU.

HAD ALREADY BEEN ENGULFED BY THE INEVITABLE FALL OF THE BAKUFU.

IEMOCHI, ONLY 17 YEARS OLD...

IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE TROOP OF 300,000 MEN IN SHOGUN IEMITSU'S TIME, A MERE 3,000 SOLDIERS MARCHED THIS TIME.

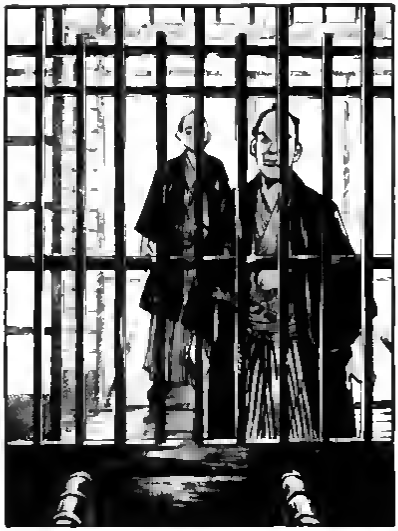

TOUKAIDOU
HIGHWAY
53RD STOP,
OOTSU
STATION—

WE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOGUN'S JOURNEY FROM OOTSU TO THE CAPITAL.
THANK YOU FOR KINDLY GREETING AND PROVIDING FOR US
THE CAPITAL IS A MESS RIGHT NOW

PLEASE REST ASSURED. YOU WILL REACH THE NIJOU CASTLE TOMORROW.

HM.

WE WILL GUARD THE PEACE OF THE CAPITAL WITH OUR LIVES.



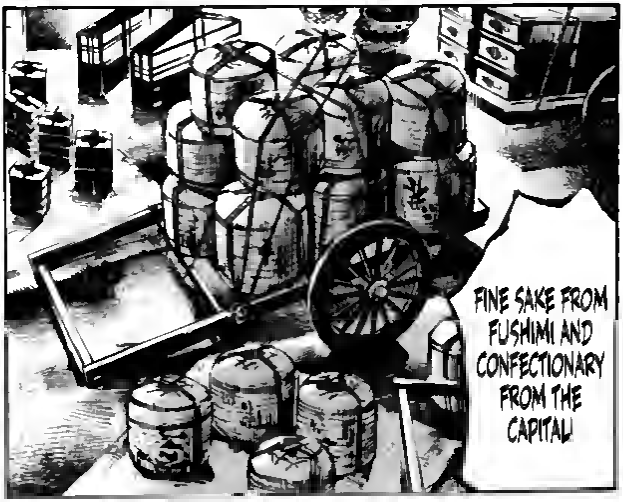
ARE THOSE OUR GUARDS ...?

THEY LOOK VERY RELIABLE.

EVERYONE!

SHOGUN IEMOCHI SENT US SOME GIFTS!

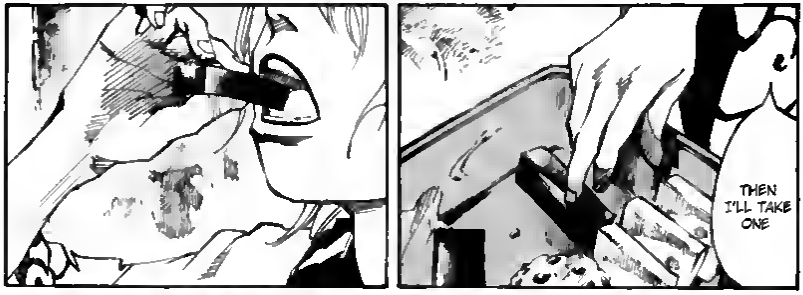
OOH!

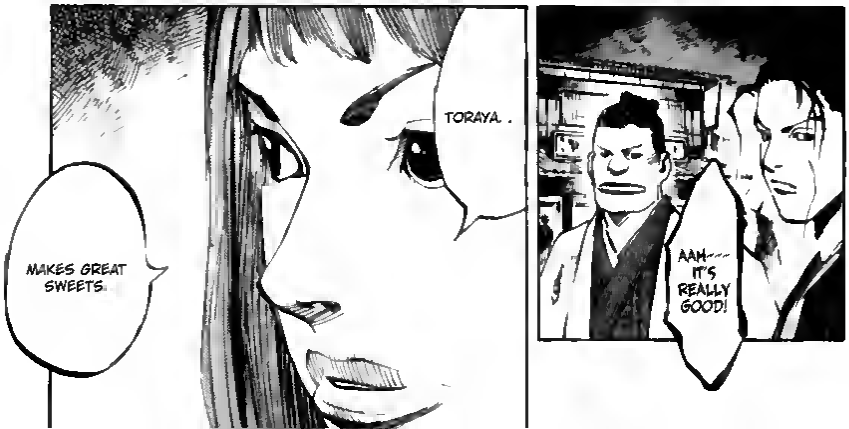

FINE SAKE FROM FUSHIMI AND CONFECTIONARY FROM THE CAPITAL

WE WILL BE ENTERING THE CAPITAL TOMORROW!
PLEASE REST WELL! WORK HARD TOMORROW!
SIR!
SUCH GOOD SAKE!
THIS IS WHAT LIFE'S ALL ABOUT!

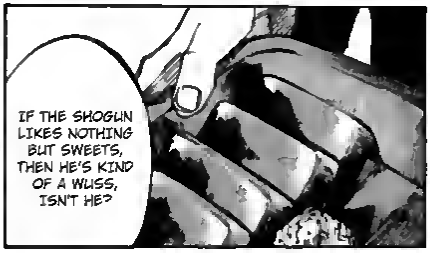
SHOGUN IEMOCHI IS VERY CONSID-ERATE.
YES
HE CARES, FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART
LOOK AT THOSE BUNCH OF DRUNKS... WHAT IF SOMEONE LAUNCHED A SNEAK ATTACK NOW?
HAHAHA
AHAHAHA
PLEASE HAVE SOME SAKE AND SNACKS

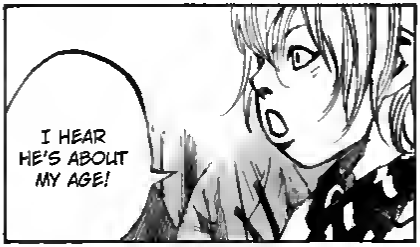
COME, TAKE SOME.
HM
ALL RIGHT
GEN!!
WE ARE HERE TO PROTECT THE SHOGUN
NO, THANK YOU


THEN I'LL TAKE ONE


TORAYA.
MAKES GREAT SWEETS.
AAH---- IT'S REALLY GOOD!

DO PEOPLE IN THE BAKUFU EAT STUFF LIKE THIS OFTEN?


IF THE SHOGUN LIKES NOTHING BUT SWEETS, THEN HE'S KIND OF A WUSS, ISN'T HE?


I HEAR HE'S ABOUT MY AGE!

PERHAPS.

I WANT TO MEET HIM!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

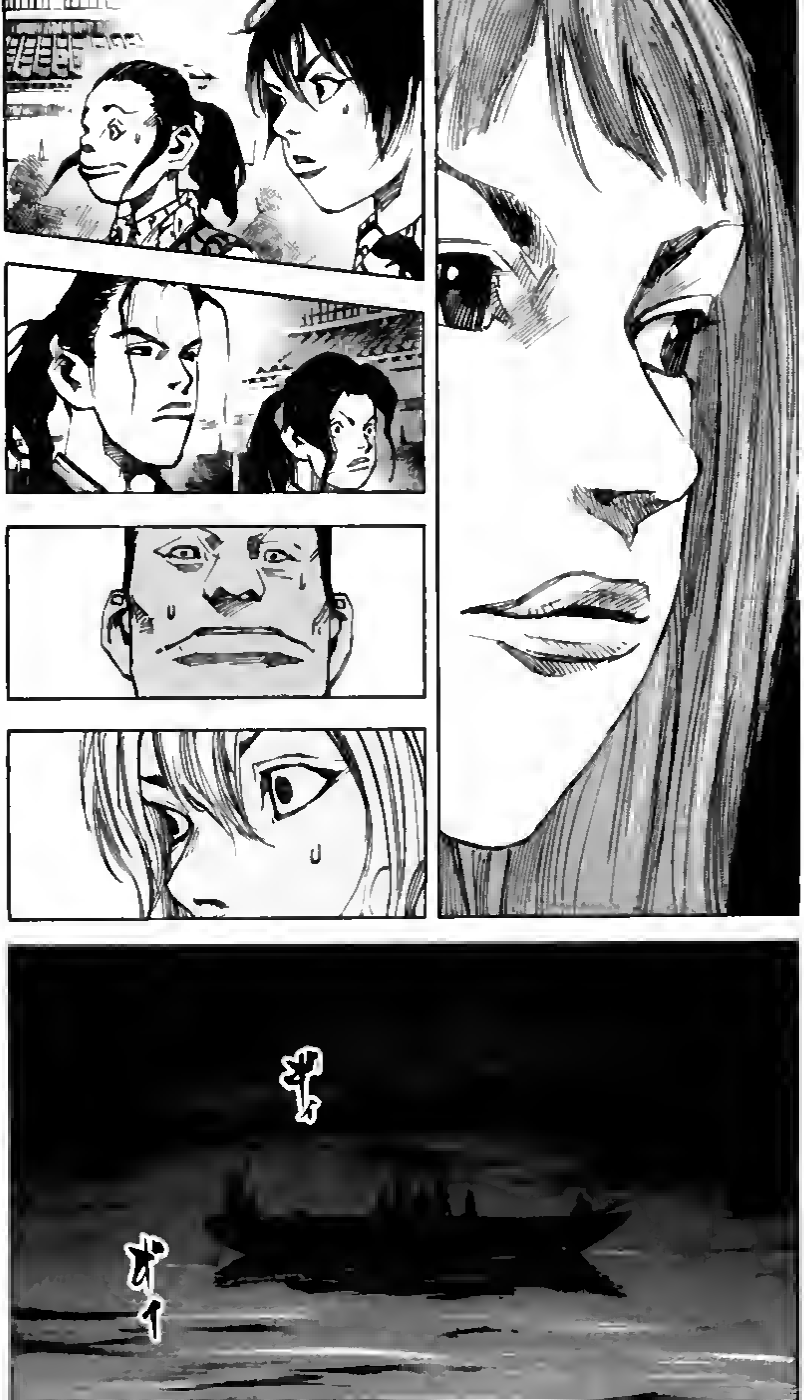
AH?
WHAT'CHA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

YOU WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE.

KUKUKU

GEN! BEHAVE.

THE MAN IN FRONT OF YOU
IS THE 14TH TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, IEMOCHI-SAMA.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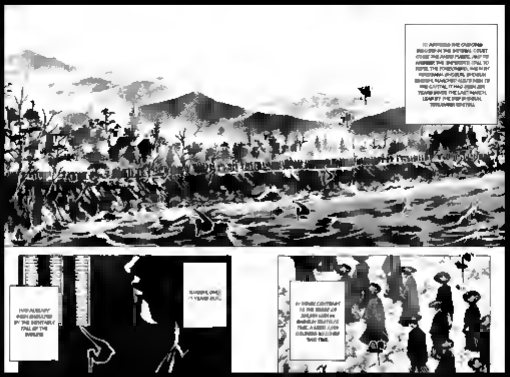
TRANSLATION NOTE:


TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING DISCORD IN THE IMPERIAL COURT SINCE THE ANSEI PURGE, AND TO ANSWER THE EMPEROR'S CALL TO REFEL THE FOREIGNERS, THE 14TH TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, IEMOCHI, MARCHED AIZU'S MEN TO THE CAPITAL. IT HAD BEEN 229 YEARS SINCE THE LAST MARCH, LEAD BY THE 3RD SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEMITSU
IN CONTRARY TO THE WISH OF [illegible] THE [illegible] CHANGED HIS MIND TO MARRY

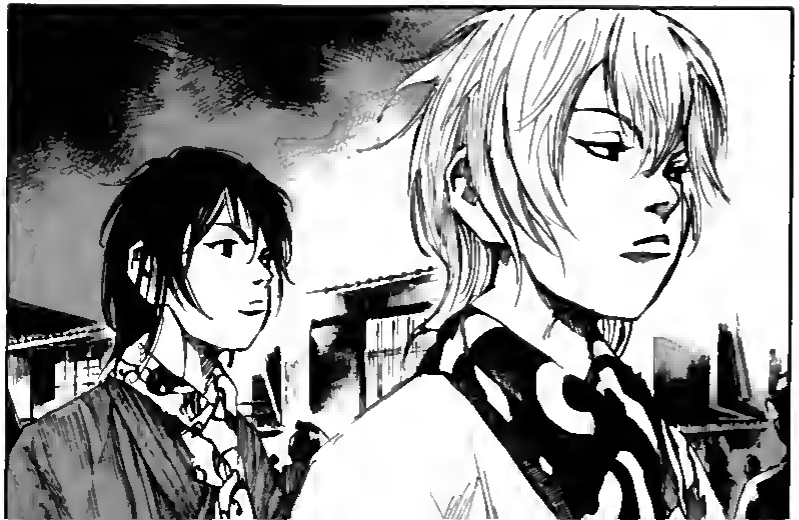
(P144-146 FN1 S1: TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING DISCORD IN THE IMPERIAL COURT SINCE THE ANSEI PURGE, AND TO ANSWER THE EMPEROR'S CALL TO REFEL THE FOREIGNERS, THE 14TH TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, SHOGUN IEMOCHI, MARCHED AIZU'S MEN TO THE CAPITAL. IT HAD BEEN 229 YEARS SINCE THE LAST MARCH, LEAD BY THE 3RD SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEMITSU)

IN 1858, THE EDO BAKUFU, LEAD BY II NAOSUKE OF THE HIKONE HAN, MADE A SERIES OF DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING THE EMPEROR. AMONG OTHERS, THESE INCLUDE NAMING TOKUGAWA IEMOCHI TO SUCCEED THE BAKUFU AS THE NEXT SHOGUN, AND SIGNING 5 UNEQUAL TREATIES WITH WESTERN POWERS, WHICH OPENED A NUMBER OF PORTS TO FOREIGN TRADE WITH LITTLE JAPANESE CONTROL. IN AUGUST, EMPEROR KOUMEI ORDERED A PURGE OF ALL THE CONSPIRATORS (THE "ANSEI PURGE"). BY 1860, OVER 100 OFFICIALS WERE ARRESTED, EXECUTED, OR ASSASSINATED. THE PURGE WAS CONCLUDED WITH A MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS AND SHOGUN IEMOCHI IN 1862, SYMBOLIZING A UNIFICATION BETWEEN THE COURT AND THE BAKUFU.

(P157 FN2 P1. TORAYA.. P2: MAKES GREAT SWEETS.)

TORAYA CONFECTIONERY CO. LTD., FOUNDED IN THE 1600S, IS STILL IN BUSINESS TODAY. MUST MAKE FANTASTIC TREATS. ♥

CHAPTER 103
ILLUMINATOR
PLEASE FORGIVE US!
WE APOLOGIZE FOR OUR RUDENESS!
IEMOCHI!?
SHOGUN...



YOU MUST BE MEN FROM AIZU.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

I AM A YOUNG SHOGUN, WITH HARDLY ANY EXPERIENCE.
I WILL NEED THE SERVICES OF EVERY ONE OF YOU IN ORDER TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS FACING JAPAN.
THEREFORE,

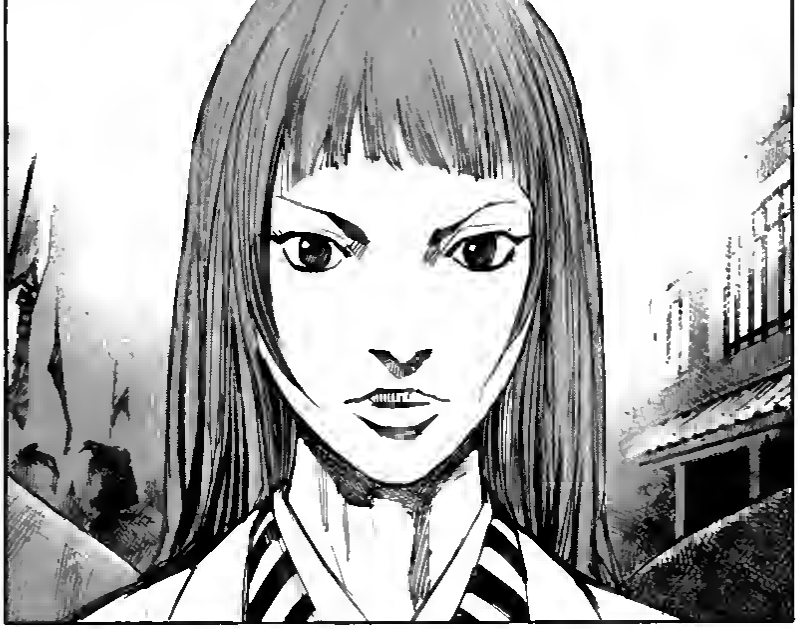
PLEASE LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE.

IN ANY CASE...

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE SNACKS?

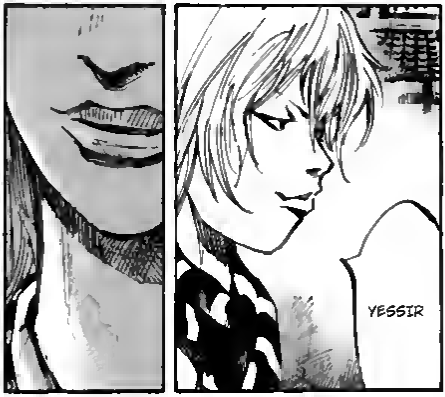
NAH.
THEY'RE TOO SWEET FOR ME

YOU CAN KEEP THE SWEETS, AND LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO US.
ARE THEY NOT TO YOUR LIKING?
WE ARE UNBEATABLE.



WELL THEN.

YOU ARE AN INTRIGUING ONE.
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST.


YESSIR

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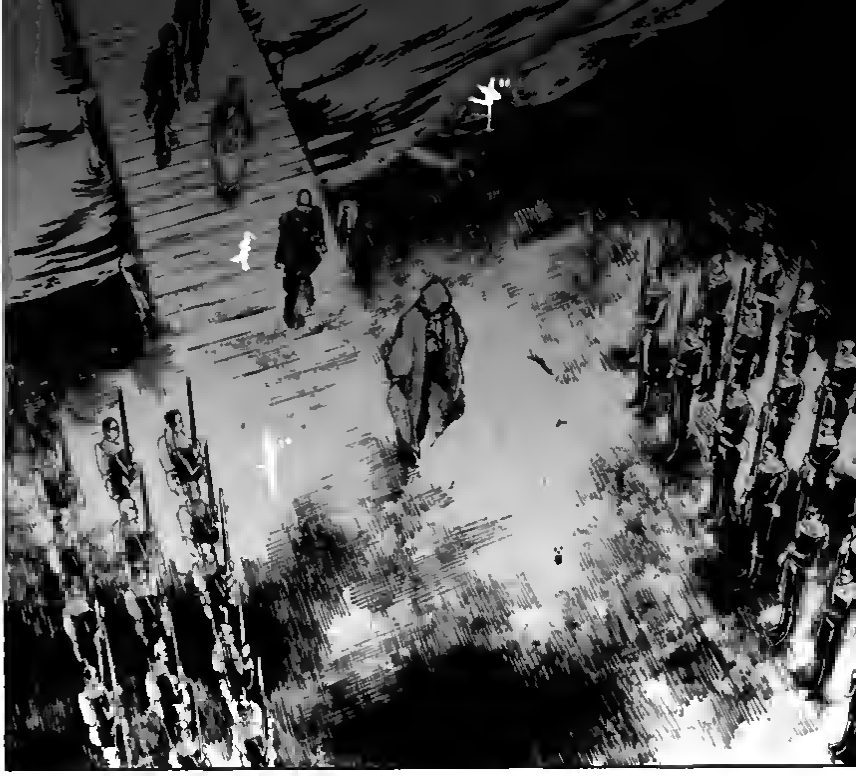
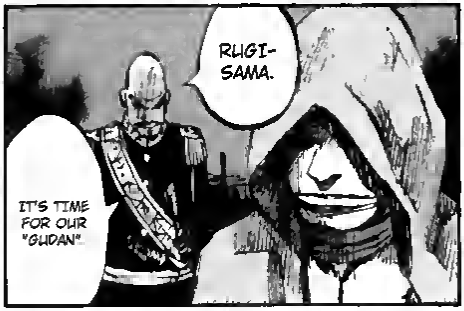
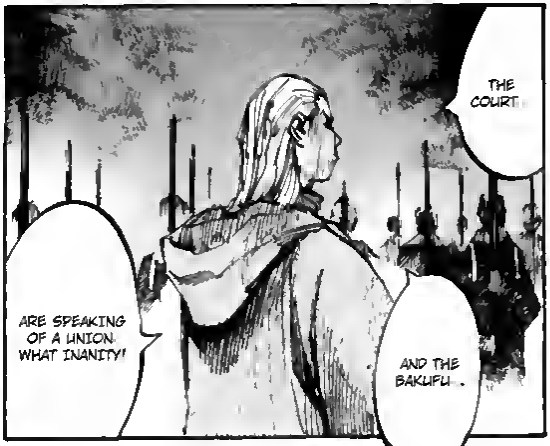


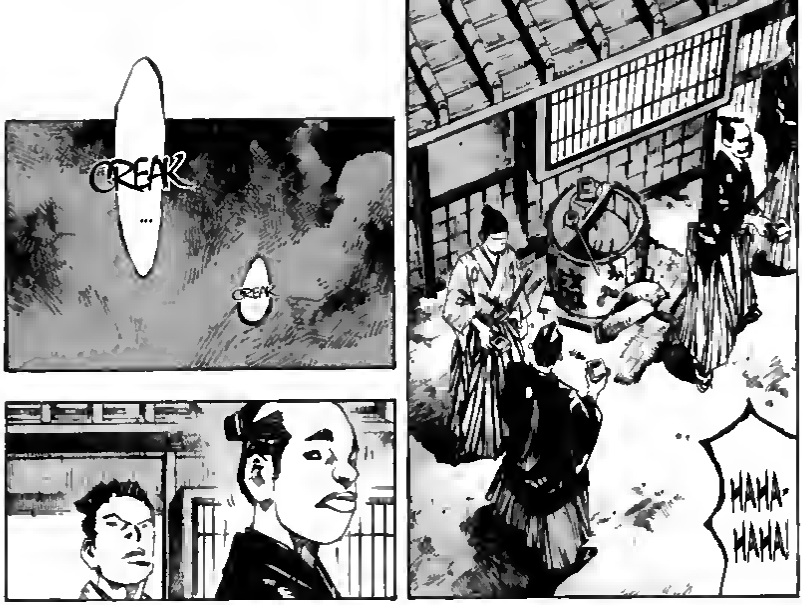

RUGI-SAMA.
IT'S TIME FOR OUR "GUDAN".

I EXPECT THEM ALSO TO FAIL AT REPELLING THE FOREIGNERS.


THE COURT
ARE SPEAKING OF A UNION. WHAT INANITY!
AND THE BAKUFU.

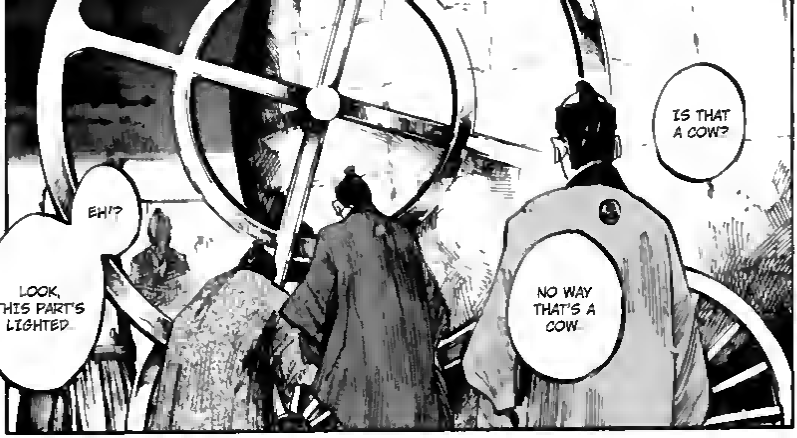
THE CURRENT JAPAN IS ENGULFED BY A TURBULENT STORM. THERE IS NO TRUTH TO BE FOUND OR FOLLOWED.
IT IS TIME FOR A NEW MASTER TO ARISE.

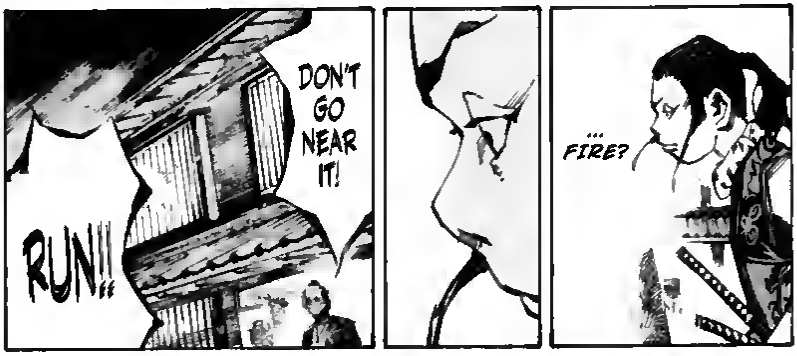
IF THE FUTURE OF JAPAN IS DARK, AS THIS NIGHT SKY ABOVE US...
THEN LET ME ILLUMINATE IT!


CREAK
...
CREAK
HAHA-
HAHA!

WHAT...
THE HELL!?

WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S NOBODY ON IT?


IS THAT A COW?
NO WAY THAT'S A COW.
EH!?
LOOK, THIS PART'S LIGHTED.


DON'T GO NEAR IT!
RUN!!
...FIRE?

HURRY!!
MOVE AWAY!!

MEN OF GENIUS ARE METEORS DESTINED TO BURN SO AS TO SHED LIGHT ON THE AGE THEY WERE BORN IN...

TRANSLATION NOTE:

(P173 PN 4 B1: THE COURT... // B2: AND THE BAKUFU... // B3: ARE SPEAKING OF A UNION. WHAT INANITY!)

KOUBU GATTAI (公武合体), LIT. "UNION OF THE GOVERNMENT (IE. THE COURT) AND THE MILITARY (IE. THE SHOGUNATE)", IS A POLITICAL MOVEMENT INSTALLED BY THE SHOGUNATE TO OBTAIN MORE POWER AND PREVENT ITS COLLAPSE. IT IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS AND SHOGUN IEMOCHI IN 1862. KOUBU GATTAI BRUTALLY REPRESSED THE SONNOU JOUI MOVEMENT ("REVERE THE EMPEROR, EXPEL THE BARBARIANS"), WHICH EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE SPREAD OF TOUBAKU ("OVERTHROW THE SHOGUNATE") AND THE EVENTUAL FALL OF THE SHOGUNATE.

AS NAPOLEON HAS SAID.
THE FIRE IS SPREADING!
WHERE ARE THE FIRE FIGHTERS?
DON'T WE HAVE FIREFIGHTERS AROUND!?

BRING WATER!
PUT OUT THE FIRE!
CHAPTER 104
THE BURNING OF OOTSU 1

GUOH!!

I SAID IT, DIDN'T I?
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DRUNK!!

PREPARE TO FIGHT!
IT'S AN ATTACK!
HERE COMES OUR FIRST FIGHT, SOUJI.
YEAH.

DAMN!
WHEN DID THE TENCHUU PEOPLE GET SO STRONG!?

IEMOCHI-SAMA! PLEASE COME WITH ME!

WE HAVE THE HORSES!
SUGITA SAMA!
GOOD!

LOOK OVER THERE...

!

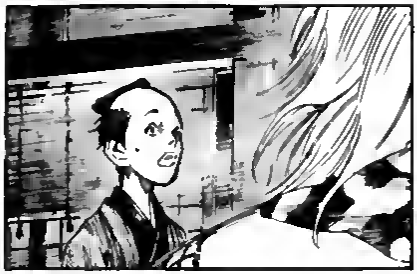
LOOKS LIKE...
WE ARE SURROUNDED.

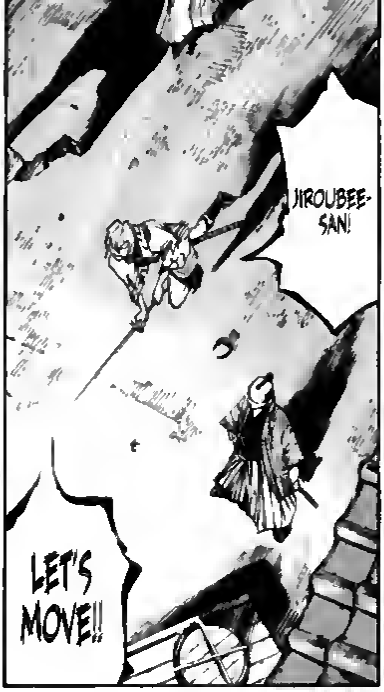
FIND ANOTHER ROUTE! GO!!
IS THERE NO OTHER WAY!?
NII-CHAN!! THE SHOGUN IS STILL THERE!!
IS THAT OKAY!?

THEY'RE GOING TO FIRE!!
GUNS!!
パ、パ、パ
BAM
BAM
BAM
GAH!!

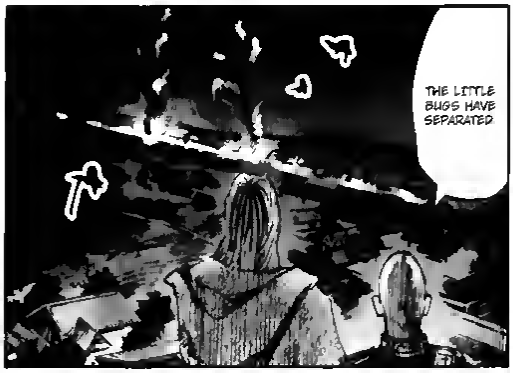
FUCKING
BASTARDS
...
LET'S GET BEHIND THEM.
OOAH!

OOOAAHHH!!




JIROUBEE-SAN!
LET'S MOVE!!

AH...

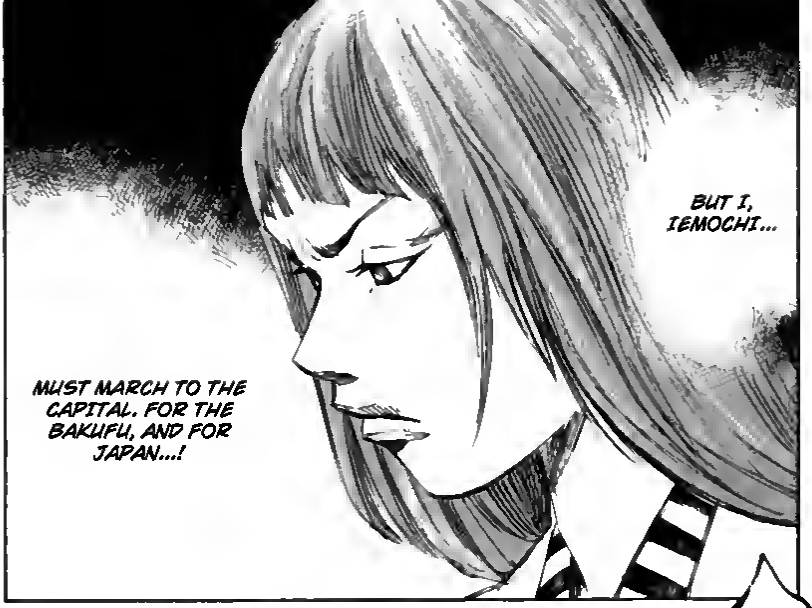

THE LITTLE BUGS HAVE SEPARATED

THEY ARE PROBABLY STILL WAVING THEIR LITTLE SWORDS AROUND

GOING AGAINST THE NEWEST WEAPONRY FROM THE WEST WITH SWORDS... HOW FOOLISH OF THEM.
DON'T BE STUPID!
HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST PUTTING IEMOCHI-SAMA IN A BATHING TUB!?

B-BUT BULLETS ARE FLYING EVERY-WHERE!

MY APOLOGIES, EVERYONE...


BUT I, IEMOCHI...
MUST MARCH TO THE CAPITAL. FOR THE BAKUFU, AND FOR JAPAN...!

IEMOCHI-SAMA!
PLEASE MOVE!!

CHAPTER 105
THE BURNING OF OOTSU II

THEIR FIRING SQUAD IS RIGHT ACROSS THIS ALLEYWAY ..

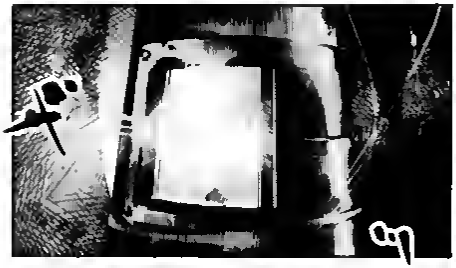
ALL RIGHT! WE WILL GO AROUND TO THEIR REAR

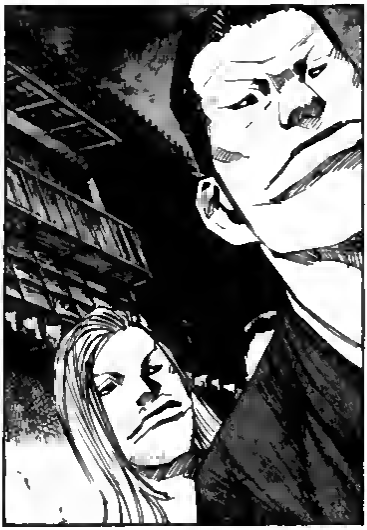
WE CAN'T TELL THEIR NUMBERS IN THIS DARKNESS.
GOOD LUCK, EVERYONE.

HEY, GATA-YAN.
I BET I CAN KILL MORE OF THEM THAN YOU ARE YOU GAME?
NOBODY HAS EVER ADDRESSED HIJIKATA-SAN AS GATA-YAN BEFORE!
HEE!
...GATA-YAN!?

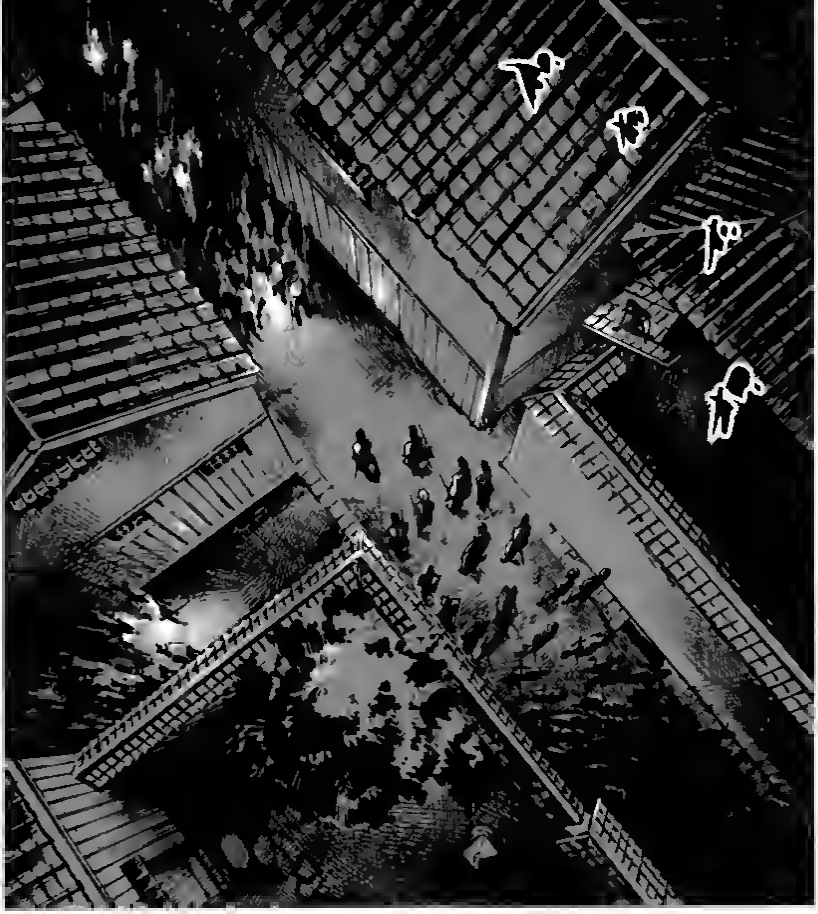
EH? GATA-YAN
KUH.
GOOD JOB, GENTAROU-KUN!
YOU GET MAD EASILY IS IT BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO PRE-TEND TO BE COOL ALL THE TIME?
THE WINNER GETS A MEAL AT THE MOZU-TEI. HOW ABOUT IT?
THAT MUST...
TASTE WONDER-FUL.
SURE I'LL ASK MOZU-NEE TO USE THE BEST SHAMO CHICKEN.

LET'S MOVE.
IF WE DON'T HURRY, OUR COMRADES WILL BE SLAUGHTERED.
!





THEY 'RE ON THIS SIDE, TOO...



THESE MEN... THEY'VE SEEN THROUGH OUR MOVEMENTS...

SHOULD WE RETREAT?

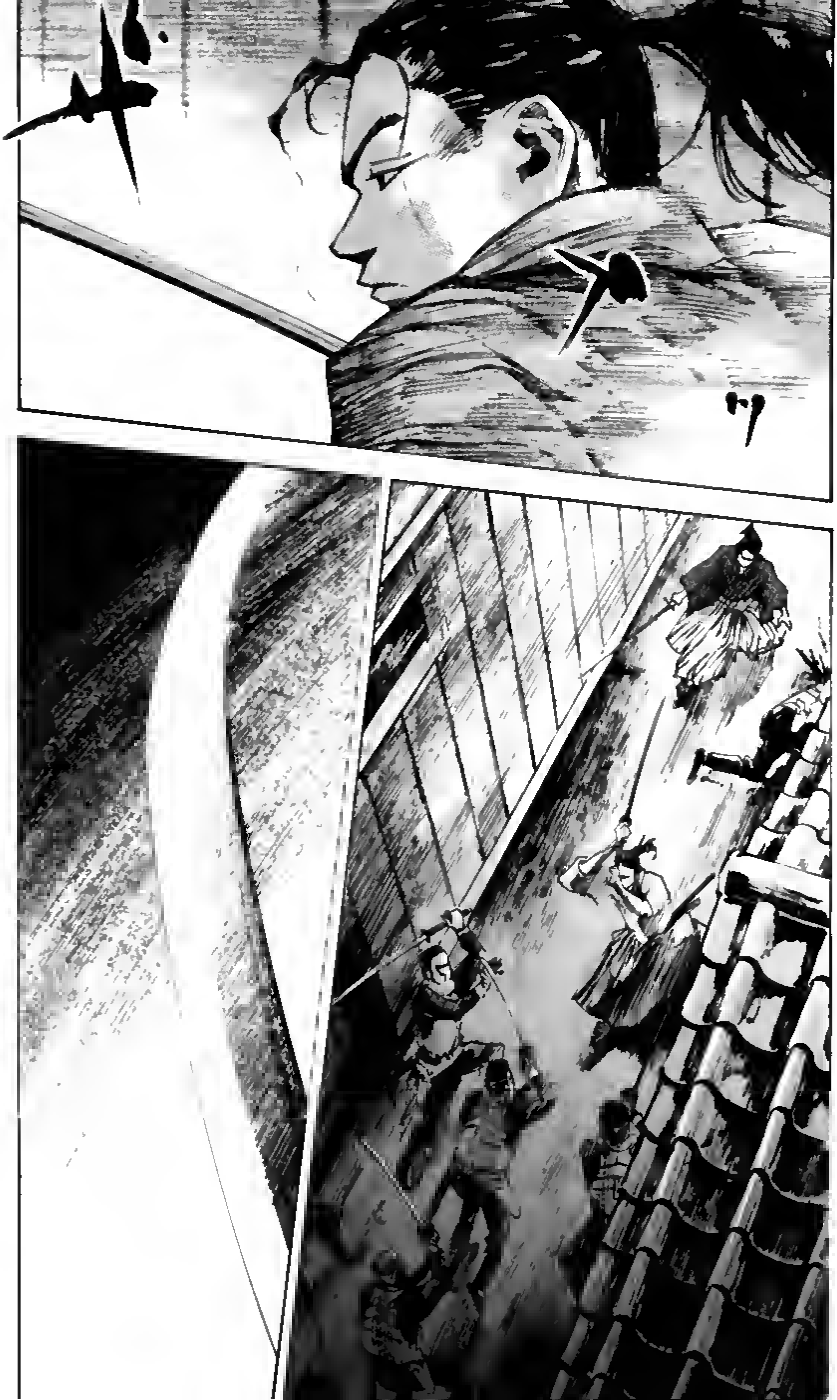
CORRECT.

KILL EV-ERYONE.
RIGHT?

NII-CHAN...
THE BLACK SHIP LAST TIME WAS TRICKIER.

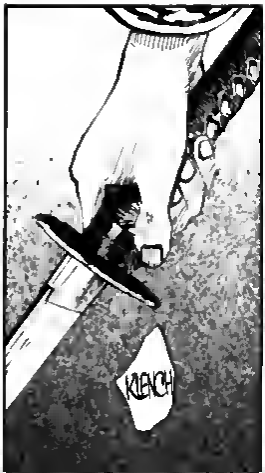
HEH.
DON'T DIE, GATA-YAN.
I WON'T GO SAVE YOU!
I WON'T DIE
NOT UNTIL I'VE MADE A NAME FOR MYSELF.
LET'S GO!

GASU!



KUAHHH!

HAS STARTED!
THE REAL BATTLE...
DON'T BE AFRAID...
AIZU'S BUSHIDO RUNS IN MY BLOOD...
KSH!
IF I RUN AWAY NOW ...
THEN I WOULD BE BETRAYING AIZU...


KLACH

AHH!

10
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